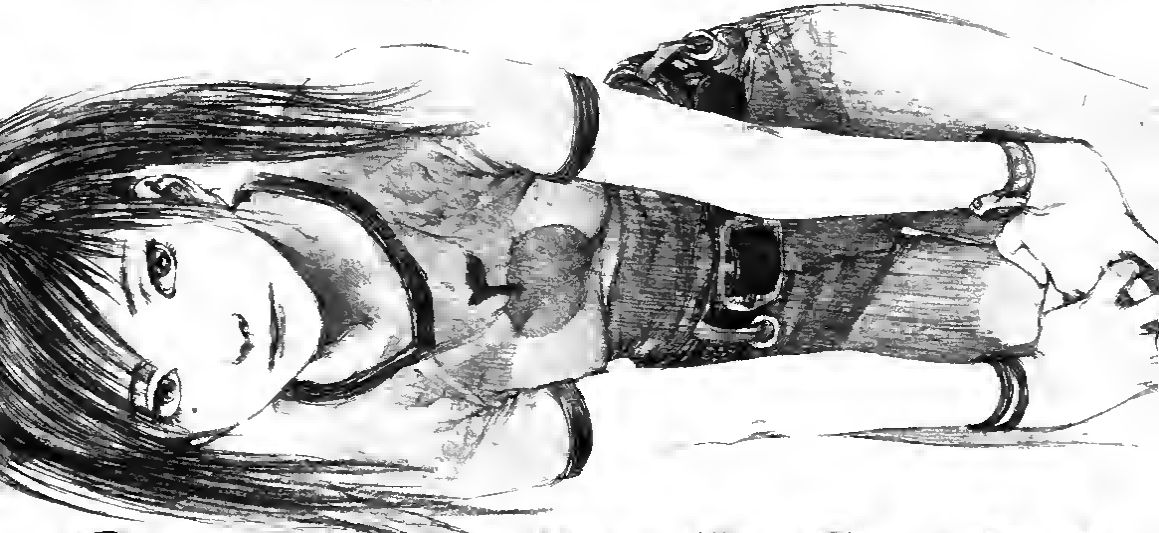
712

TRANSLATION / **KUMAR SIVASUBRAMANIAN** LETTERING AND RETOUCH / **STUDIO CUTIE'S MICHAEL HIGGINS**



OHIKKOSHI

HIROAKI SAMURA (WRITING AS TAKEI TEASHI)

CONTENTS

OHIKKOSHI
#01 LEMON KIO 007
#02 WHO OIO THAT?! 043
#03 ALL FOR GAIN 071
#04 THE SUN 103
#05 NEW OAYS.....139

LUNCHEON OF TEARS OIARY (VAGABONO SHOUJO MANGA-KA) 175

KYOTO SUPER BARHOPPING JOURNAL (BLOOOBATH AT MIOOROGAIKE).....234

TAKEITEASY COMICS COMPLETE WORKS
OHIKKOSHI
HIROAKI SAMURA

#01 LEMON KIO

I'M IN LOVE WITH AKAGI!
WE'RE TIRED OF HEARING THAT, ALREADY! SAY SOMETHING ELSE, WOULD YA?

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A WOMAN LIKE HER!
REALLY?! OKAY! I GET IT! I GET IT! I GET IT, SACHI!
YOU DON'T GET ANY OF IT! BESIDES-- THAT'S MY BEER!
GULP GULP
ゾンポポ

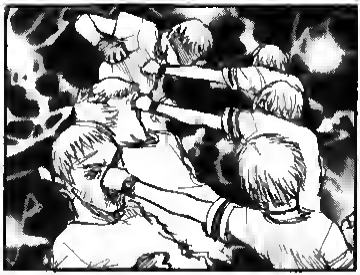
KOBARUKAWA, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME AKAGI'S SUPPOSED TO GET HERE?

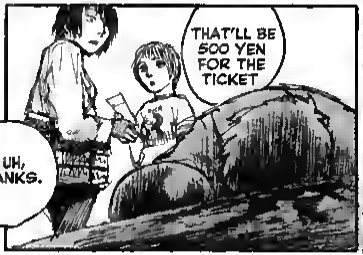
赤木真由
AKAGI MAYU
THE GREAT THING ABOUT AKAGI IS--
--HER NAME IS SYMMETRI-CAL DOWN THE MIDDLE!
EH? AH!! WHOA!!
...WHAT'S YOUR POINT?
A-HAAA!

SHE SHOULD BE ANOTHER HOUR
I DIDN'T ASK. SHE'S SUPPOSED TO LEAVE HANEDA AIRPORT AT SIX O'CLOCK, THEN COME TO HASHIMOTO.
ARGH! I'M SCREWED! I GO TO THE PAINS OF TAKING A FOURTH YEAR SEMINAR, AND WE END UP HOLDING A PARTY...
...I'LL BE FALLING BEHIND FROM DAY ONE!
WELL, NOBODY ASKED YOU TO--
ARE YOU GUYS REALLY GONNA SKIP CLASS?!
OH, AND WHAT AN EXCUSE. WELL, IT WON'T BE THE FIRST OR THE LAST TIME
AND AKAGI'S NOT JOB HUNTING, YOU KNOW
AWESOME!!
I AIN'T WORKING, EITHER!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN! AFTER GRADUATION, I'M GONNA TRAVEL THE WORLD OVER!
OH!! A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY!
WHOA! "SELF-DISCOVERY"...?
HRGH. THINK I'M GONNA PUKE...

LISTEN UP, BOYS AND GIRLS! LISTEN UP!
OKAY! OKAY! OKAY!
HUH? YOU GOT TICKETS ALREADY?
IT'S AT KIN-DZA-DZA IN KE!HACHI ON THE TWENTY-FIFTH
HOW COME "HAIR" IS IN "HERRING"...?
WAIT. IS IT "HAIR"...?
SPRING CONCERT TIME! I HAVE TICKETS FOR THE BATTLE OF THE SCHOOL BANDS!
WOW!
YOU'RE COMING, RIGHT?
I'M HONORED TO BE FORCED.
AND "BUTT" IS IN "HALIBUT"...?
EVERY-ONE... MAKES FUN OF HALIBUT
OKAY! TONO! YOU, TOO...
SWEET, AIN'T IT? THE SCHOOL'S MOST POPULAR BAND ALWAYS GETS TO HEADLINE!
WHEN WE STOP DOING VENOM COVERS, KIDO.
WHEN'LL WE EVER SCORE THAT GIG, FUJITA?

ACK ...!!
AHH, SHE'S HERE AT LAST!
SORRY!! SORRY I'M SO LATE!
AH!



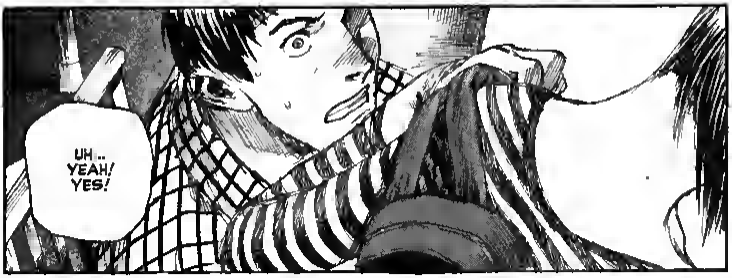

THAT'LL BE 500 YEN FOR THE TICKET
. UH, THANKS.

AKAGI !!

SO TAKI'S ON A PLANE, NOW, HUH?
IS IT TRUE THAT LETTERS AND STUFF DON'T REACH ZAMBIA?!
HUH? OH, "TOKYO BANANAS" ...!
DID YOU BRING US ANY SOUVENIRS?
TAKI IS AKAGI'S BOYFRIEND, A YEAR AHEAD OF US.
HA HA HA! WHO'S THAT?
HARDLY. AS LONG AS YOU DON'T PUT ANY MONEY IN 'EM, THEY'LL ARRIVE NO PROBLEM!
HOPE
THAT'D BE KINDA EGOTISTICAL.
AW.. NO.
YOU MUST'VE PROTESTED, RIGHT?
HE LEFT TODAY, SHORTLY AFTER GRADUATION
HE DECIDED TO GO OFF TO ZAMBIA, WITH THE JAPAN OVERSEAS COOPERATION VOLUNTEERS
SOUTH HERE

HE USED TO SAY, "YOU'RE NOT CUTE 'CAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT DEPENDENT"
HA HA HA!
MAYBE YOU OUGHTTA BE EGOTISTICAL SOMETIMES!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU DON'T CARE, SO I THOUGHT YOU DID!
PLEASE, GOD, RIGHT NOW--
--SHE'S RIGHT HERE, BUT I CAN'T REACH HER! SOMEDAY, THIS "DESERT WANDERER MIRAGE GAME" HAS TO END, RIGHT?!
AND EVEN NOW, NO MATTER HOW FAR APART, THEY ARE, SOME INVISIBLE THREAD MUST STILL JOIN THEM TOGETHER
UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, TAKI'S SHADOW FOLLOWED AKAGI WHEREVER SHE WENT
WHAT'S A "ZENO"...?
I'LL USE IT IN SOME LYRICS
IT'S ZENO'S GODDAMN PARADOX!!
GLARE
TAT TAT

HEY, TONO!
OKAY IF I SIT RIGHT THERE?


UH... YEAH/ YES!

HEY, TONO...
YOU LIVE IN MINAMI-OSAWA WITH YOUR PARENTS, RIGHT?
? YEAH. WELL--

...THEY DON'T GIVE ME ANY SPENDING MONEY.
COMBO A 450 YEN
YEAH, BUT I STILL WORK A PART-TIME JOB. EVEN THOUGH I SAVE ON FOOD EXPENSES...
SO YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF SPARE CASH.
UDON IN BROTH 200 YEN
...THE CLUB WHERE YOU WORK..?
UH..
A GOOD TIME?
WELL, THE NEXT TIME YOU HAVE SOME TO SPARE...
...COME 'ROUND TO THE CLUB WHERE I WORK..FOR A GOOD TIME!
I GOTTA EARN SOME BREAD, NOW THAT I'M PAYIN' THE RENT FOR TWO PEOPLE ON MY OWN.
NAUSICAA OF THE BROTHEL OF THE WIND
YOU MO-RON !!
A...A BROTHEL ?!
...YOU WON'T MAKE A WHOLE LOTTA MONEY
AT THIS KIND OF CLUB, IF YOU DON'T BRING IN YOUR OWN CUSTOM-ERS...
PUB CLUB マデリン
PUB CLUB MADELINE MAYU AKAGI

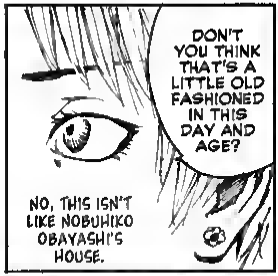
TEE HEE HEE! JUST MY BACK?
Y-Y-YOU WANT ME TO RUB YOUR BACK?!
OOH.. I'M FEELIN' KINDA DRUNK. OH, MY...
HUH? HA HA HA! NO, NO!
W-WORK...?! BUT IT'S STILL AFTER-NOON...
IN THE AFTER-NOONS, I WORK THE CASH REGISTER AT A SUPER-MARKET!
GOTTA GO TO WORK
'KAY, SEE YA, TONO!
YEAH RIGHT THERE! GENTLE NOW! OOH! THAT FEELS GOOD!
OH! HEY, NOW! THE SOK'S GONE
HUH?!
ALL RIGHT, THEN! SEE YA TOMORROW!
UHH..

MAYBE I SHOULD DROP BY HER APARTMENT AFTER SHE GETS OFF WORK..?!
BUT IF SHE KEEPS GOING ON LIKE THIS, SHE'LL START MISSING CLASSES PRETTY SOON.
OF COURSE, SHE'S NOT THAT KIND OF A FRIEND.
...GODDAMN' GOING OUT THERE TO EARN ALL HER OWN SCHOOL EXPENSES, PLUS 60,000 YEN IN RENT..?
MAN, THAT'S COOL!
WHOA!
BAM!
GREAT CLOUDS ABOVE! TELL ME WHAT TO DO!!
GO TO THE CLUB!
DON'T YOU GUYS HAVE CLASS RIGHT NOW?
WHO YOU CALLING PALE-FACED?!
NAH. IT WAS DULLSVILLE, SO WE SPLIT!
I'M GONNA GO HANG OUT IN SHIMO-KITAZAWA.
GOT THAT RIGHT.
OUR PALE-FACED FRIEND IS DRUNK WITH THE TURMOILS OF YOUTH!

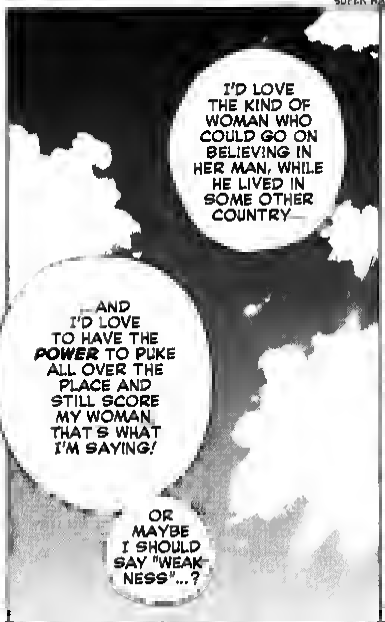
...AND THEN I'LL HAVE SOME RICE PORRIDGE AND A SPACE DRINK AT ASA BEFORE GOING HOME
..MAYBE LOOK AT A WATCH OR TWO IN TABASA...
I'M GONNA GO TO MINANAMI APARTMENTS AND GATTEN'S SECOND FLOOR TO BUY SOME CLOTHES...
...AND BROWSE AROUND AND MAYBE BUY SOME BOOKS AT VILLAGE VANGUARD...
YOUR AD HERE!
HEY, LISTEN TO THIS.
HUH? ARE YOU GOING, KIDO?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING TO?
THAT BIT ABOUT AN AD IS BULL.
A-HA!
YOU WON'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH MONEY WE SAVED AT THE EASY-LISTENING CLUB IN STUDIO RENTAL FEES!
...FINANCIALLY TIGHT.
HEH HEH HEH...
AH, WELL, I'M...
HOW 'BOUT IT, SOSUKE?
HOW 'BOUT WHAT?
IN TIMES OF NEED, I BEG YOUR CHARITY, COMRADE!
HEH HEH HEH
NO WAY! WHAT CHARITY?!
INCIDENTALLY (COULD THIS BE ONE OF THOSE TIMES?)
AND SO YESTERDAY I WAS WALKING AROUND HACHIOJI WHEN I STUMBLED INTO THIS MUSICAL INSTRUMENT SHOP AND SAW THE WAJIMA-MODEL GRECO...
I SEE. SO YOU APPROPRIATED THE FUNDS

HE'S AN IDIOT, BUT HE'S A NICE GUY... I THINK.
WE'VE ONLY BEEN DATING TWO MONTHS, SO IT'S HARD TO TELL.
NICE BUT AN IDIOT
TWO MONTHS AGO AT A LOCAL BAR.
I LOVE YOU! ICE YOU! HOARK--!!
EEEK! STAY AWAY!!!
AACKK!!
THAT WAS DEFINITELY THE WORST LOVE CONFESSION SCENE IN HISTORY!
BUT IT MADE YOU WANT TO BE HIS FRIEND, TOO!
...
FIVE MINUTES LATER...
WELL, NEVER MIND KIDO AND ME...
...ISN'T THIS YOUR CHANCE TO STRIKE?
HUH?
..I MEAN... WITH AKAGI...

LIKE A WOMAN WHOSE HUSBAND'S BEEN SENT OFF TO THE FRONT LINES... THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'M GONNA GET IN THERE
SHE'S PLANNING TO HOLD ONTO THAT APARTMENT UNTIL TAKI COMES BACK IN TWO YEARS' TIME.



SUPER HAZY MEMORY


I'D LOVE THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO COULD GO ON BELIEVING IN HER MAN, WHILE HE LIVED IN SOME OTHER COUNTRY—
...AND I'D LOVE TO HAVE THE POWER TO PUKE ALL OVER THE PLACE AND STILL SCORE MY WOMAN. THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING!
OR MAYBE I SHOULD SAY "WEAK-NESS"...?

IF A MAN LEFT ME BEHIND AND EXPECTED ME TO WAIT FOR HIM WHILE LIFE JUST PASSED ME BY--
--NO WAY! THAT SUCKS!
HUH...?! THAT'S WHY THEY'RE ADMIRED AS A COUPLE!

.. AND COULD GRUMBLE ALL I WANTED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S STRENGTHS AND MY OWN WEAK-NESSES...
IT'S JUST, IF I WAS LIKE YOU...
NOTHING...
WHAT?
CATCHA LATER!
..I WONDER IF I COULD BE AS HAPPY AS YOU ARE EVERY DAY...?
HUH?

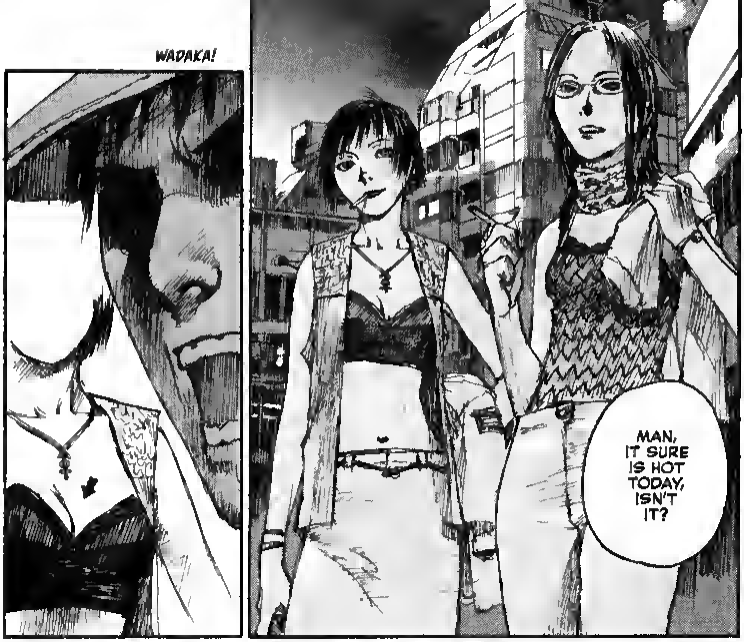
ONE...
TWO...
1,2...
1,2...
FEMALE CONVICT SCORPION
BUT I COULD SWEAR I HAD FIVE FOR THE WEEK.
IT'S NO USE. WHETHER I COUNT THEM IN NUMBERS OR LETTERS, TWO BILLS IS STILL TWO BILLS
IT'S NO USE. WHERE'D THOSE OTHER THREE GO?!

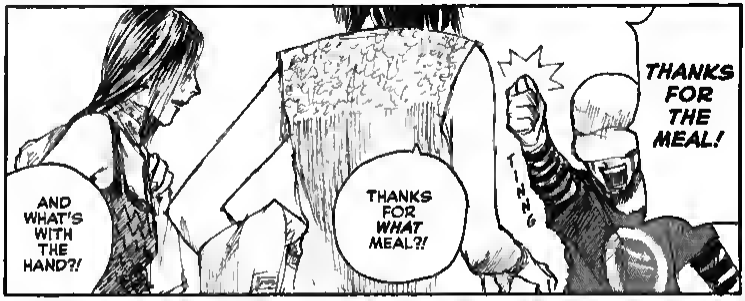
DAMN YOU, KOBARUKAWA! YOU CAN CALL ME OLD FASHIONED OR UNCOOL ALL YOU WANT!
HE KICKED IT!
YOU'VE BEEN COLD-HEARTED SINCE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN!
MEMORIES OF A WRETCHED CHILDHOOD.
WHA--? WHO BOUGHT THOSE?!
YOU DID.
NO! WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO EASE THE POOR WOMAN'S SUFFERING ...?!
SURELY SUCH METACOGNITION HAS VALUE, DOESN'T IT?!
META-COGNITION!
THMPP
...WHAT DOES A MAN DO THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
GIVES ME PRESENTS.
AND KISSES.
PRESENTS... I KNEW IT...
WHAT THE HELL'S "META-COGNITION" ...?
QUIT MAKING SUCH A RACKET, BRO!
...OH, MAN! ..

SHE HAS A BOYFRIEND.

.. MM. THAT SEEMS ABOUT RIGHT.
PERHAPS-
A NATURAL WAY TO REPLENISH MY IRON!
OH! A CHINESE WOK! ARIGATO!
SOME-HOW THAT DOESN'T SEEM QUITE RIGHT.
AND I CAN'T GET ONE FOR 20,000 YEN TO BEGIN WITH
YAY!! IS THIS BAG A HERMES?
HE'S NEVER SEEN ONE
THANK YOU! ♡ WITH THIS, I CAN BE A LADY!
...
KOKUMAN
WITH THOSE THOUGHTS, HE WENT SHOP-PING..
SOME-BODY HELP!!
MEAN-ING HE BOUGHT IT.
WILL THIS REALLY REALLY BE GOOD ENOUGH?!

EXAGGERATED
KIN-DZA-DZA
MAY TWENTY-FIFTH...
HEY, TONO! OVER HERE! OVER HERE!
WHOA...
I'LL BET MOST OF THEM ARE HERE TO SEE KOBARUKAWA'S BAND!
ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE JUST FOR THE BATTLE OF THE SCHOOL BANDS?!


WADAKA!
MAN, IT SURE IS HOT TODAY, ISN'T IT?


THANKS FOR THE MEAL!
TINK
THANKS FOR WHAT MEAL?!
AND WHAT'S WITH THE HAND?!

KIDO'S BAND IS UP FIRST, RIGHT?
WE SHOULD GET IN THERE BEFORE HE GETS PISSED OFF

OH YEAH. HEYY--
STRANNNGG...
GOOD EVENING WE ARE GENIOUS!
MORE IMPORTANTLY WHY ARE ALL THOSE PEOPLE STILL OUTSIDE AND NOT HERE?!
SAY THAT AGAIN.
MAKES ME WANNA FRIGGIN' CRY!!
AKAGI YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO FREAK OUT YET
YEAA

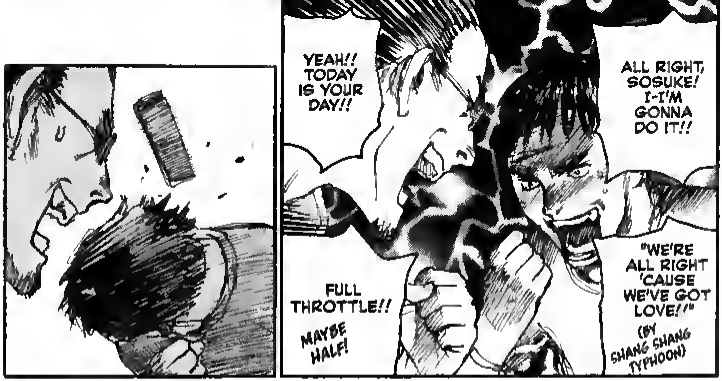
IF SHE STARTS HEAD-BANGING, HER BOOBS'RE GONNA BOUNCE HEE-HEEHEE!
ALL THOSE BIRTHMARKS ON HER CHEST AND THAT SEXY OUTFIT--IT'S O.T.T.!
DUN DUN DUN DUN
Every night, living fast in the different town, in the world. And that likes to get
I'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME!!
HOKA-KUSHI! LONG TIME NO SEE!
DUN DUN DUNNA DUN
Around, Living fast I wander the town, for my chances cos I only die young. Live like
LOOKING AT HER NOW, YOU'D NEVER GUESS SHE WAS A STUDENT! GOD--THE PHEROMONES!!
HRRK! MAYU AKAGI!!
PSYCHIC WAVES
IF I GET DRUNK ENOUGH, MAYBE I'LL DANCE
SAY, KIDO'S PRETTY GOOD, ISN'T HE?
THE DEATH METAL BOOM'S OVER ALREADY
RRR..
...IT'S THAT HE WAS BORN INTO A MUSICAL MINORITY.
WELL, IF HE'S GOT A PROBLEM..

SO THE FIRST THREE BANDS FINISHED THEIR PERFORMANCES IN NINETY MINUTES. THEN ONLY REIKO KOBARUKAWA'S BAND--KURUKURU PAPA--WAS LEFT.
THE GIRL!
THE GIRL!
THE GIRL!
UNOFFICAL FAN CLUB, THE GOLD SCREW GIRLS BRIGADE.
LUDWIG
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT FROM KURUKURU PAPA.
THIS PLACE JUST GOT FREAKIN' PACKED!
THIS HEAT IS KILLING ME!
YOU WANNA SEE KOBARU-KAWA, RIGHT? SHALL WE MOVE UP?
NAW, IT'S TOO LATE/ THOSE FAN CLUB GUYS--
RATTA TATA TAN

"BANANA SPIRIT"
LYRICS: REIKO KOBARU-KAWA
MUSIC: TAKEI TEASHI
THE RECIPE THAT I LEARNED IN A DREAM, SEVEN-MINUTE COOKING TIME, ADDICTIVE AROMA-- BANANA SPIRIT! HE WENT AND PEELED BANANAS AGAIN, THREE IS WORSE THAN A MONKEY, BUT THAT'S JUST FINE IF HE'S A CUTIE LA LA LA LA
MIX IT UP, YEAH, MIX IT UP, YEAH, PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT AND MIX IT UP, YEAH
*REPEAT
* BANANA SPIRIT BANANA SPIRIT SWEET, SO SWEET, BANANA SPIRIT, BANANA SPIRIT BANANA SPIRIT DRINK EVERY LAST DROP-- BANANA SPIRIT!
MIX IT UP, YEAH! MIX IT UP, YEAH! STRONGLY, GENTLY, MIX IT UP, YEAH!
WHEN YOU ARE PEELING BANANAS, IF YOU PEEL FIVE THEY'RE FOR HUMANS, IF YOU HAVE FOUR THEY'RE FOR MONKEYS, MONKEYS ARE FINE IF THEY'RE CUTE, CUTIES GET JUST ONE BANANA, ONE SMALL CUP OF GRANULATED SUGAR, AND ONE FULL CUP OF MILK LA LA LA LA
YOU... HARDLY SAW ANY OF OUR ACT, DID YOU?!
...SORRY.
I WAS BUSY WATCHING AKAGI...
SACHI!!! GOD-DAMN YOU!!
THANKS FOR THE LOVELY NIGHT, I MADE YOUR DINNER FOR YOU, TODAY WAS A BIT TOUGH, BUT EAT IT ALL UP, OKAY, LITTLE PIGGY?
*REPEAT
I KNOW YOU CAN'T STAND THE HEAT, "BUT I DON'T CARE," JUST THIRTY CENTIMETERS FROM HERE, SCARLET DROPS ARE FALLING
GET ON THE HORSE, GIVE IT A TRY, EVEN IF THE HORSE'S BACK LEAVES BURNING SCARS, IT'S THE PROOF OF OUR LOVE, RIGHT?
*REPEAT
* I LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU, LITTLE PIGGY I LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU, LITTLE PIGGY LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU
"LOVE YOU, LOVE YOU, LITTLE PIGGY"
LYRICS: REIKO KOBARUKAWA
MUSIC: TAKEI TEASHI

I'M UP TO ABOUT FIVE TRIES...
EIGHT OR NINE TIMES OUTTA TEN, SHE'LL PUSH YOU AWAY!
R-REALLY?!
LOOK AT IT FROM HER SIDE-- SOMEONE SHE DOESN'T EVEN FEEL AFFECTION FOR SUDDENLY GIVES HER A PRESENT...?!
LOVE YOU! LOVE YOU! LOVE YOU!
A PRESENT?! YOU IDIOT!!
LOVE IS A SATTLE, TONIGHT ON THE GRASS, I WANT THE LAST SCENE TO BE US LAUGHING
YESTERDAY, WHO DID YOU TALK TO? TOMORROW, WHO WILL YOU LAUGH WITH?
DON'T MATTER IF THEY DIE, NINE UNITED SONS, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I WANT TO SHOW THE PROOF THAT I'M ALIVE, I WILL BECOME A STRONG WOMAN! IF I CRY, I LOSE
YESTERDAY, WHERE DID YOU GO TO HAVE FUN? TOMORROW, WHAT PROMISES DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP?
YOUNG GRASS IS BURNING, IMPERIAL JADE, THE TWO MET ON THE MID-SUMMER LAWN, NO TURNING BACK FOR THE THIRTEEN ORPHANS, YOU CAN DO IT IF YOU'RE READY, NOTHING TO LOSE
I AM A DREAMING MAHJONG DOLL, WHEN THE STREETS LIGHT UP, MY HEART GOES WILD, I HAVE THREE FRIENDS, BUT TONIGHT THE ONLY ONE I SEE IS YOU, JUST YOU
"DREAMING MAHJONG DOLL"
LYRICS: REIKO KOBARUKAWA
MUSIC: S. GAINSBOURG
TAKE HER OUT!
THE ONLY RIGHTEOUS THING TO DO IS ACTUALLY SPEND MORE TIME WITH HER!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING EXACTLY?
CHEAP MOVES LIKE THAT ARE NO GOOD FOR GUYS LIKE US.
THAT KIND OF STUNT USUALLY ONLY WORKS FOR GUYS WHO'RE ATTRACTIVE, ANYWAY!

NO PROBLEMO! AKAGI'S PENNILESS RIGHT NOW
YOU TREAT HER TO A MEAL, SHE'LL BE SPOILED RIGHT QUICK.
HEH HEH HEH
WHAT KINDA GIRL DO YOU THINK SHE IS..?
A DATE.
EXACTLY!
--IS ALWAYS THE SIMPLEST ONE, I GUESS.
BUT YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT THE BEST ANSWER--
HA HA! HA HA! SERIOUSLY?!
ALCOHOLIC DEMENTIA
HEY! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?!
UH, THE NEXT SONG IS .


YEAH!! TODAY IS YOUR DAY!!
ALL RIGHT, SOSUKE! I-I'M GONNA DO IT!!
"WE'RE ALL RIGHT 'CAUSE WE'VE GOT LOVE!!"
(BY SHANG SHANG TYPHOON)
FULL THROTTLE!!
MAYBE HALF!

FROM HERE
THANK YOU! GOOD NIGHT!!
WHA--?
WHAT THE HELL'S THIS?! WHERE'D IT COME FROM...?!
ROAR!!

FWSHH
--AN EXCELLENT JOB!
OKAY! EVERYONE, TODAY YOU TRULY DID--

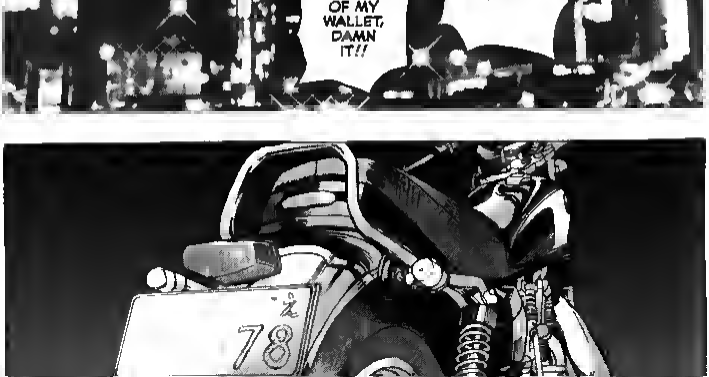
SO WE GOT TO TALKING ABOUT HOW MAYBE WE OUGHTTA GET THE UNBIASED OPINION OF A THIRD PARTY. SO, MAYBE, IF YOU'VE GOT SOME FREE TIME OR WHATEVER, AND YOU DON'T MIND, MAYBE YOU COULD COME TO THE ZOO WITH ME..? TOGETHER. LIKE ON A RARE ANIMAL SELECTION TRIP SOME TIME..?
AKAGI!
UH...AHEM. YOU KNOW, RECENTLY, MY FAMILY'S BEEN THINKING ABOUT RARE ANIMALS, SEE.. WELL, I MEAN, THEY GOT TO THINKING THAT MAYBE WE SHOULD RAISE ONE, YOU KNOW, LIKE AS A PET ? BUT THE THING IS, SEE; THERE'S ALL KINDS OF RARE ANIMALS, RIGHT?

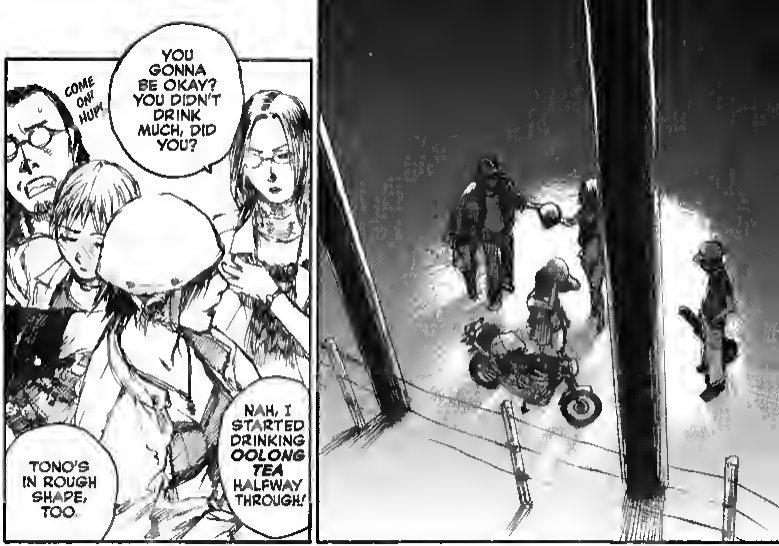
HUH.
YOU MEAN, LIKE TAMA ZOO OR SOMEWHERE LIKE THAT..?
TWO MINUTES! OVER!
NO...WELL, THE LOCATION DOESN'T MATTER SO MUCH...
...BUT IF WE DO GO TO TAMA... THEY'VE GOT KOALAS THERE
Y-YOU'RE GONNA RAISE A KOALA?!
EXOTIC PET
IN ALL MY TWENTY-TWO YEARS, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN ANYONE ASKED OUT LIKE THIS!
FIRST DATE AT THE ZOO ...?!
AND HE JUST LET EVERYONE HEAR IT!
ME, TOO! ME, TOO!
SO-SUKE..
YEAH?
WE STILL HAVEN'T DONE IT, HUH?
WANNA GO TO A HOTEL TONIGHT?
WHA--?!

S-SO HOW 'BOUT IT, AKAGI?!
A HOTEL LIKE THE MOZARU?! AH, CRAP HOW MUCH MONEY DO I HAVE ON ME? UH... ONE, TWO...
IF YOU PAY FOR ALL OUR DRINKS HERE I'LL DO IT!
HERE'S THE THING...
Y-YES?!
WHAT?!
MUH...
MY PLEASURE!!

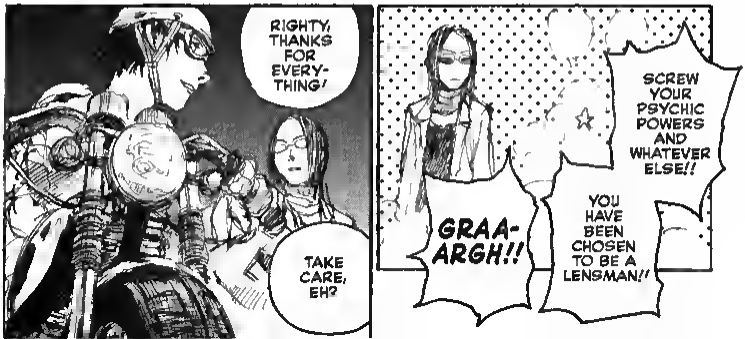
YEEEE
EE
SH
HEY, HEY! HAVE YOU GONE MENTAL?!
HERE'S TO TONO'S FUTURE!!
I'M SCREWED!
EVERYBODY! SACHI SAYS HE'S GONNA PICK UP THE BILL FOR ALL OF US!!
NOW I CAN AFFORD THE HOTEL!!
THANKS FOR THE TREAT, CHIEF!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND!
HUH?!
YAY! WHAT LUCK!

Y-YOU SON OF A BITCH!! I NEVER SAID ANY--
LET GO OF MY WALLET, DAMN IT!!


78


COME ON! HUP!
YOU GONNA BE OKAY? YOU DIDN'T DRINK MUCH, DID YOU?
NAH, I STARTED DRINKING OOLONG TEA HALFWAY THROUGH!
TONO'S IN ROUGH SHAPE, TOO.

THE.. THE HOTEL..
WHAT'S WRONG?
KIDO! AFTER KOBA'S DONE DREAMING, I'LL TAKE HER BACK TO HER PLACE, OKAY?
NO THANK YOU!
YEAH, THAT'S TOO BAD WILL YOU TAKE TONO WITH YOU?


RIGHTY, THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!
TAKE CARE, EH?
SCREW YOUR PSYCHIC POWERS AND WHATEVER ELSE!!
YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BE A LENSMAN!!
GRAA-ARGH!!

HOTEL BY THE RIVER-SIDE..
WHAT? REALLY?
BACK TO WHEN THOSE TWO USED TO LIVE TOGETHER, TWO YEARS AGO..
NOW THERE'S A SIGHT THAT TAKES ME BACK.

EVERYONE WAS LISTENING IN..

MM...
WHAT? ARE YOU AWAKE?
...BUT YOU STAYED COOL IN FRONT OF THEM.
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU.
HA HA HA! I LIKE IT! IT'S KINDA CUTE!
...AND TAMA ZOO IS RIDICULOUSLY CLOSE!
FIRST DATE AT A ZOO... SEEMS KINDA JUNIOR HIGH...
--THE IMPOSSIBLE.
I CAN'T PULL OFF--
I'M NOT GOING.
YOU WANNA COME TOO, KOBA?
YOU WANNA GET CLOSER TO TONO, DON'T YOU?
SURE YOU CAN!

...BUT ...IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW...
YEAH...

I SEE...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
HOLY! CHECK OUT THE MOON! IT'S HUGE!
...JUST LIKE AKAGI'S BREASTS...

INEVITABLY, THE TWO OF THEM STAYED UP ALL NIGHT AND GOT WASTED..
GLACE IN THE WINDOW YEAH YEAH YEAH...
WHAT?! WE ONLY COME OUT QUARTERLY!!
TO BE CONTINUED!

THIS PAGE WAS PUT TOGETHER BY THE ARTIST HIMSELF.

"TOO FUNNY!" "HE'S OBVIOUSLY A GENIUS!" "IS HIS IMAGE DESTROYED?" "MANGA GRAPH" WERE THE DEEPLY APPRECIATED REVIEWS AFTER THE RELEASE OF "LUNCHEON OF TEARS DIARY"--NOW SIX MONTHS LATE FROM TAKEI TEASHI (WHO DRAWS EXACTLY LIKE HIROAKI SAMORA). ANOTHER IMMORTAL MANGA!

TAKEITEASY PRESENTS

OHIKKOSHI

THE FOREIGNER.
THE PUNY BLONDE'S BOY-FRIEND.
THE MOLE WOMAN'S FORMER ROOM-MATE, THE PUNY BLONDE.
THE HERO'S LONGED FOR, NICOTINE-BREATHED, WOMAN WITH MOLES.
IN A ROMANTIC COMEDY, THE LEAD MUST (OF COURSE) BE A VIRGIN.

From Ohikkoshi!
A Tale of Love and Romance
BETTER GOVERNMENT IN YOUR TOWN
THE STAGE IS SET FROM ROUND ABOUT HACHIOJI TO HASHIMOTO. IT'S A NOSTALGIC AND SLIGHTLY HEARTRENDING PORTRAIT OF A GROUP OF SINCERE BUT CAREFREE YOUTHS, TO BE PRESENTED IN ABOUT FOUR PARTS

NEXT EPISODE PREVIEW PAGE

TAKEI TEASHI IS PLANNING A SHORT COLLECTION (TENTATIVELY CALLED TAKEITEASY'S MASTERPIECES) VOLUME ONE TO BE RELEASED IN JANUARY 2007. HE THANKS YOU FOR YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT.

HIROAKI SAMURA'S MODERN-ERA ROMANTIC COMEDIES are finally available in English! These stories are told with the same bold, kinetic art style and brilliantly paced storytelling that Samura's *Blade of the Immortal* epic is famous for—but with a decidedly different attitude. The main offering, "Ohikkoshi," follows the turbulent paths of several university students as they fall in lust, form rock bands, ride motorbikes, and try to avoid making life decisions while drunk. "Luncheon of Tears Diary" is a vibrant, genre-busting tale that also peppers its humor with sharp, dramatic moments. An aspiring manga creator (who happens to be a virgin) is on a quest for love and a fulfilling career. Along the way, she has to cope with overzealous men, gang warfare, a mahjong addiction, and a lascivious manga editor. This collection is rounded off by Samura's hilarious "Kyoto Super Barhopping Journal (Bloodbath at Midorogaike)," a rare, autobiographical travel piece, which is also a strange love song to Kyoto.

O H I K K O S H I

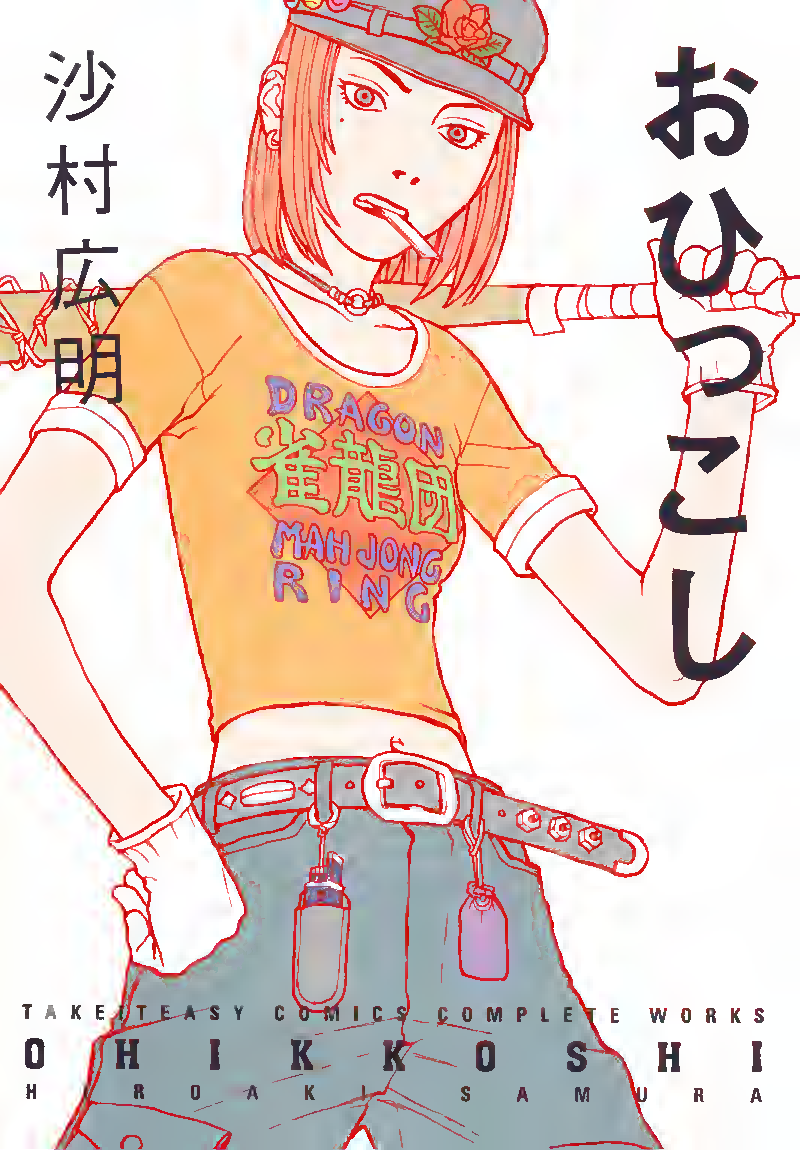
H I R O A K I S A M U R A

ISBN-10: 1-59307-622-3
ISBN-13: 978-1-59307-622-1
9 781593 076221
51295>
DARK HORSE 20 YEARS

$12.95 / darkhorse.com

おひっこし

沙村広明



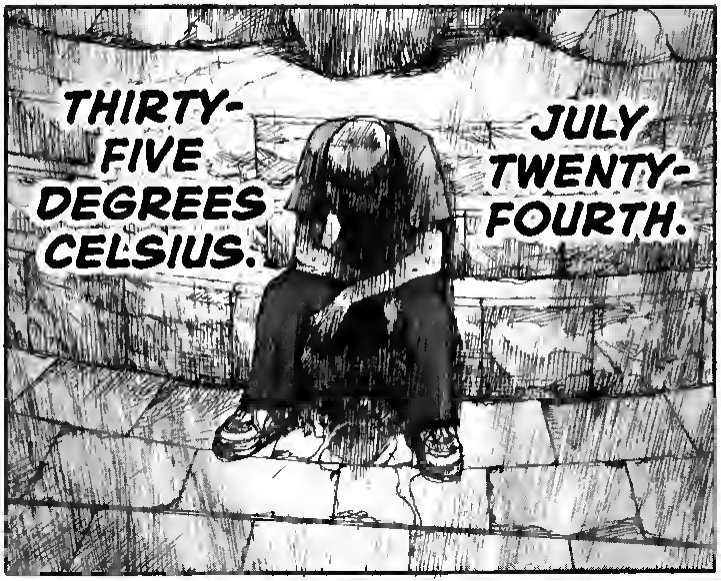
TAKE IT EASY COMICS COMPLETE WORKS

OHIKKOSHI

HIROAKI SAMURA

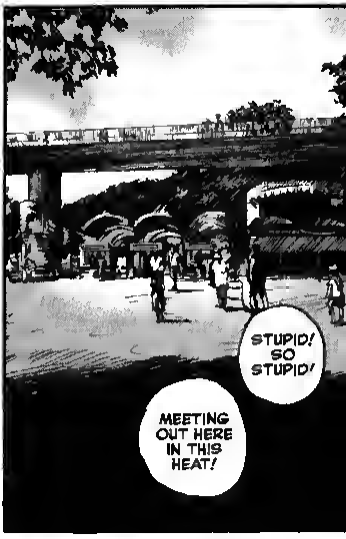
#Manga-Sketchbook@freelighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

#02 WHO DID THAT?!


THIRTY-FIVE DEGREES CELSIUS.
JULY TWENTY-FOURTH.

AW, NICE... A FAMILY TOGETHER.
THAT'LL BE ME WITH AKAGI, SOMEDAY.
HEAT-INDUCED OVERACTIVE IMAGINATION

I THOUGHT I'D BE TOO PUSHY IF I PICKED HER UP AT HER PLACE.
WILL SHE LET ME OFF WITH AN EXCUSE LIKE THAT...?


STUPID! SO STUPID!
MEETING OUT HERE IN THIS HEAT!

A FLOWCHART PRESENTATION OF THE REASONING THAT WENT THROUGH SACHI TONO'S MIND THAT BROUGHT HIM TO THE ZOO:
AMUSEMENT PARK → I GET SICK ON THE RIDES ×
A MOVIE → FIRST, WHAT'S AKAGI INTO? → 1. HOLLY 2. EUPOP 3. JAPAN
→ THERE'S NOTHING GOOD OUT RIGHT NOW ×
→ I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THEM ×
→ COULD BE DIFFICULT SETTLING ON ONE △
THE ZOO → THE ANIMALS GIVE YOU LOTS TO TALK ABOUT / IT'S CHEAP, WHICH IS GOOD (FOR ME) ○
CONCERT → NOT BAD, BUT DOESN'T DEEPEN OUR FRIENDSHIP?
ODAIBA → (DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW WHERE IT IS) ×
GAH...! HOT! HOT!
PHEW! WHAT'S UP, TONO?
WHY DIDN'T YOU WAIT IN THE SHADE SOME-WHERE?
GARGHH!! MY HEART'S GONNA EXPLODE!!
ビシィ!
HSHH
THAT'S YOUR STOMACH.
OH, GOOD LUCK CHARM FROM MY FRIENDS, PLEASE HELP ME!
CON-TENTS OF THE GOOD LUCK BAG.
GET EATEN BY A TIGER! -REIKO KOBARUKAWA
STEAL A KISS! -SOSUKE

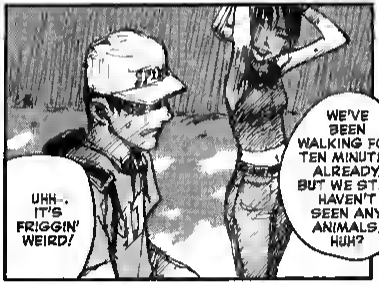
UH, YEAH. I WAS WONDERING IF I SHOULD'VE PICKED YOU UP.
HO HO HO! YOU THOUGHT OF THAT?! REALLY?!
T-TONIGHT ?!
HUH? ANYWAY, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT LATER.
WELL, THAT'S FINE! YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT UP TO ME TONIGHT IN SPADES!

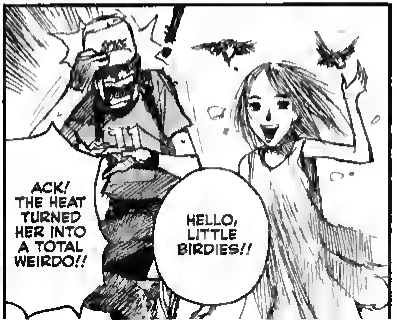
AKAGI, WHICH ONE--
THIS ONE!
* OF COURSE HE'S PAYING.
IT'S GOTTA BE PORK CURRY ON A DAY TRIP!
YEAH... BUT WE'RE LOCAL.
...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHENEVER I'VE EATEN WITH AKAGI...
...SOSUKE OR KOBARUKAWA HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE WITH US.
WE...
WE ATE OUR ENTIRE MEALS WITHOUT SAYING A WORD...!

BASED ON PRECEDENTS, ARE WE GONNA BE OKAY HERE IN THE ZOO FOR A FULL DAY TOGETHER?!
WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US, WE ALMOST NEVER HAVE A LONG CONVERSATION
HUH?!
AKAGI-..?
COULD YOU DO THAT JUST ONE MORE TIME?
--WHERE'D THAT CAMERA COME FROM?
UH...I COULD, BUT--
* OF COURSE SHE DIDN'T EAT IT.

IN TAMA ZOO, IF YOU TURN LEFT ON THE BRIDGE JUST PAST THE MAIN GATES, IT'LL LEAD YOU RIGHT INTO THE CENTER OF THE PARK WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING ANY ANIMALS ALONG THE WAY.





SAVAGE BEASTS

ANIMAL CLAN
CHAOS

THE RULERS OF THIS WORLD. IF YOU CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM THROUGH CONVERSATION (WHAT'S THAT?) THEY CAN BE STRONG ALLIES. THEIR ONLY WEAKNESS: IF YOU KILL TOO MANY OF THEM, THEY'LL SOON GO EXTINCT.

BEHEMOTH LV 85 — STRONG IN ALL RESPECTS

32	14	17	28	12	11	AFRICA	FRIENDLY	ELEPHANT TUSK

ANNIHILATION BANQUET	MEGATON PRESS	BERSERKER RAMPAGE	MASS MIGRATION

SIBERIAN NIGHTMARE LV 78 — STRONG IN ALL RESPECTS

28	12	15	20	19	15	EASTERN SIBERIA	FERO-CIOUS	FRESH BUTTER

TIGER ZAPPER	JET THIN	RANSACK	CHOMP

KOENIG DEMON LV 72 — STRONG IN ALL RESPECTS

28	11	12	18	18	16	AFRICA	FERO-CIOUS	GOLDEN MANE

PROOF OF KINGSHIP	ROAR	RANSACK	CHOMP

GRIZZLY LV 66 — STRONG IN ALL RESPECTS

29	7	10	20	10	13	MYANMAR	FERO CIOUS	BEAR PAW

SALMON HUNT	BEAR SWAT	RANSACK	CHOMP

SHADOW SPEAR LV 49 — STRONG IN ALL RESPECTS

20	12	13	15	26	7	AFRICA	FERO CIOUS	KIYOKO'S MIC

SONIC RUSH	MEGABOOST	RANSACK	CHOMP

RARE BEASTS

ANIMAL CLAN
NEUTRAL

THIS VARIETY IS WORTH MORE IF YOU CATCH AND SELL THEM RATHER THAN KILL THEM. OF THIS LOW LEVEL GROUP, THE GIRAFFE'S HEIGHT POSES THE GREATEST THREAT.

HAPPY KOALA LV 50 — SHOCK ABSORPTION, VULNERABLE TO STRESS

13	9	10	24	7	30	AUSTRALIA	OPEN MINDED	EUCALYPTUS DUMPLINGS

TINY BOUND	TEETH GRIND	SLEEP	*

*Yes, the "photos" for OS edition were printed that badly.

GIRAFFE

LV 39

VULNERABLE TO VIOLENCE

12	10	9	15	17	20	EAST AFRICA	SERENE	BEER CANS

SHORT SLEEP	GIRAFFE KICK	CONDESCEND	*

DREAM EATER

LV 24

NO DAMAGE FROM PUNCHES

13	12	16	19	3	21	MALAYSIA	STUPID	DREAM JUMBO

DROOL	SLEEP	*	*

SUN-WUKONG

LV 10

RESISTANT TO FREEZING

9	15	8	6	11	7	JAPAN	CUNNING	DIRTY MAGAZINES

GROOMING	SLEEP	*	*

WILD BIRDS

BIRD CLAN

LAW

THE HIGH LEVEL PHOENIX TENDS TO LOITER AROUND ON ITS OWN WITHIN THE PARK. THEY MAKE AN EASY TARGET WHEN TRYING TO EARN EXPERIENCE POINTS. BUT KILLING THEM NATURALLY PISSES THEM OFF

PHOENIX

LV 63

VULNERABLE TO GUNS

12	14	20	13	15	24	SOUTH ASIA	FRIENDLY	FIREBIRD

REBIRTH	REINCARNATION	FEATHER DUSTER	PECK

DEATH BRINGER

LV 56

VULNERABLE TO GUNS

21	5	6	12	18	8	SOUTH AFRICA	CUNNING	ROTTEN MEAT

DANCE OF DEATH	FEATHER DUSTER	PECK	*

SPEED KING

LV 30

VULNERABLE TO GUNS

13	6	4	17	22	5	AFRICA	STUPID	FEATHER FUTON

WORLD'S STRONGEST KICK	MEGABOOST	PECK	*

MADEMOISELLE FROM HELL

LV 8

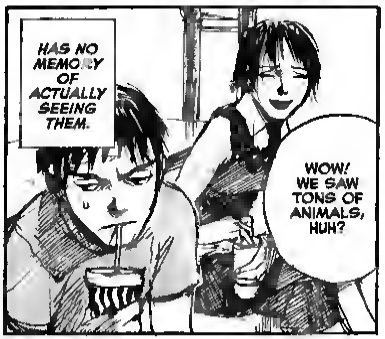
VULNERABLE TO GUNS

6	3	4	4	9	10	AFRICA	FRIENDLY	WOODEN BAT

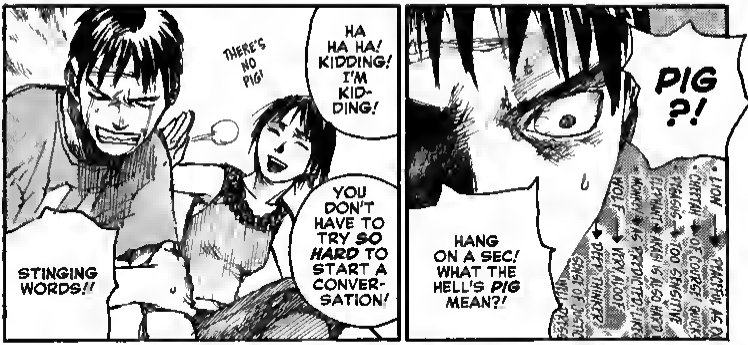
FEATHER DUSTER	PECK	SLEEP	MASS MIGRATION

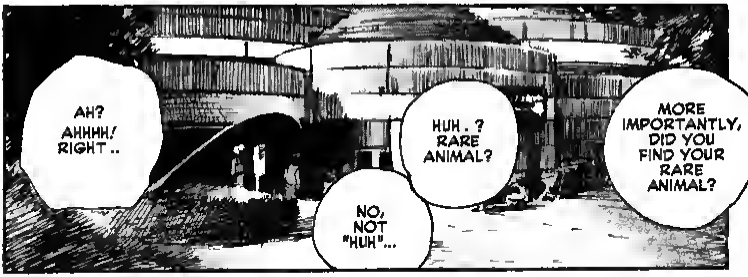
...
PHEWWW...!

OH! I SEE ...!
BYE-BYE!
HEY, AKAGI, WHAT'S YOUR ANIMAL SIGN?
BAD TIM-ING!
ME? PIG.


HAS NO MEMORY OF ACTUALLY SEEING THEM.
WOW! WE SAW TONS OF ANIMALS, HUH?

...ALL RIGHT!
WHAT COUNTRY DOES THAT BOY COME FROM?
GOTTA START A ZOO-APPRO-PRIATE DISCUS-SION...


HA HA HA! KIDDING! I'M KIDDING!
THERE'S NO PIG!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY SO HARD TO START A CONVERSATION!
STINGING WORDS!!
PIG ?!
HANG ON A SEC! WHAT THE HELL'S PIG MEAN?!
LION → PANTSU IS O... CHARTAN → OF COURSE QUICK THINKER → TOO SENSITIVE TEMPERAMENT → HIGH MAINTENANCE WOLF → VERY LOOSE MONKEY → IS PROMISCUOUS LIKE DEEP THINKER → SENSE OF JUSTICE


AH? AHHHH! RIGHT..
HUH.? RARE ANIMAL?
NO, NOT "HUH"...
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DID YOU FIND YOUR RARE ANIMAL?

OH... I SEE.
YOU WANTED THIS TO BE A FIRST DATE HMMM...
HM?
FOR-GIVE ME!

ACTUALLY, I KNEW ALL ALONG.
WHA--?!
UM... UH... R-REALLY ?!

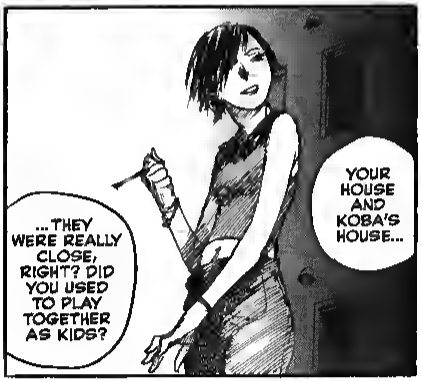
A-HA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE HEE...

...WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
IF SHE KNEW, THEN THAT MEANS...
HM?!
SO, THEN...
BURNABLE TRASH
UNBURNABLE TRASH
IT'S TOO SOON FOR DINNER.

WILL YOU GIVE ME A LIFT BACK WITH YOU?
TONO, YOU BROUGHT YOUR BIKE TODAY, RIGHT?

BUT... WHY TO SCHOOL ?!

...THIS VIEW ALWAYS LOOKS LIKE SOME SCENE OUTTA THE END OF THE WORLD.
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT...


...THEY WERE REALLY CLOSE, RIGHT? DID YOU USED TO PLAY TOGETHER AS KIDS?
YOUR HOUSE AND KOBA'S HOUSE...

EH? YEAH. WELL...

ME AND KOBARUKAWA BOTH GREW UP OVER HERE---
UM.. AKAGI ..?
SORRY! SORRY! I WAS JUST SAYING, YOU KNOW?

YOU GOT THAT SCAR PROTECTING HER, RIGHT?
OH, THIS...
SCHOOL TRIP, TWELVE YEARS EARLIER...
A MONKEY STOLE MY LUNCH BOX!!
QUIT CRYING, IDIOT! LOOK! I'LL GIVE YOU HALF O' MINE!
HEE HEE HEE!
GIMME BACK MY LUNCH YOU STUPID MONKEY!!
Fwah
GOAH
GRAAHH
(THAT HURT, YOU BITCH!)
I WASN'T EXACTLY PROTECTING HER PER SE...
...WELL.
EEEK!!
YAEE!
YEARGH!
(EAT THIS! DEATH MASSACRE!!)
SO HOW COME YOU DIDN'T?
IF THIS WERE A MANGA OR SOMETHING, THAT MOMENT WOULDA BEEN THE "SPARK" FOR YOU TO FALL IN LOVE, RIGHT?

IT'S NOT... ABOUT "LOVE," YOU KNOW? SHE'S...
I MEAN, LOVE IS LOVE, BUT SHE'S KINDA LIKE... FAMILY OR SOMETHING...
...LIKE SHE'S JUST A PART OF MY LIFE.
WHA--?
WAIT!! IS THIS HER INDIRECT WAY OF REJECTING ME?!
?
WHAT DID I SCREW UP ON TODAY'S DATE?!
WHAT?! "HOW COME" ...?
BUT, UM... AKAGI...
...YOU LIVED IN THE SAME APARTMENT WITH KOBARUKAWA IN SECOND YEAR, RIGHT?
? HA HA HA... YEAH.
BUT NOW YOU LIVE APART. WHAT HAPPENED ...?
I GOT A BOYFRIEND.

...PUH...

I WONDER IF KOBA-RUKAWA BACK THEN FELT SOME-THING LIKE YOU DO NOW...
HMM...
GOD, I'M AN IDIOT!!
WHY THE HELL DID I TAKE HER ON THIS DATE?!

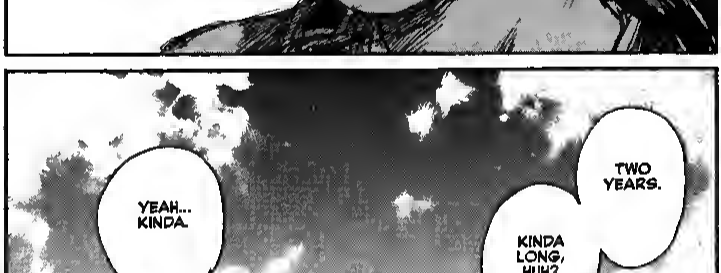
SHE BROUGHT IT UP!

IT'S NOT LIKE TAKI AND I BROKE UP OR HE DIED OR ANYTHING.
FORGET IT.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR DREDGING UP THE MEMORIES!!

...SOMETIMES IT CAN BE... A LITTLE BIT DIFFICULT.
IT'S JUST...

WELL, ANY-WAY...
...I FIGURE I'LL PROBABLY GET USED TO IT IN THREE MORE MONTHS OR SO.
WHEN THE EGGS I BOUGHT FOR TWO GO ROTTEN IN THE FRIDGE.
LIKE WHEN I GET HOME FROM WORK AND CAN'T FIND ANYTHING TO DO EXCEPT WATCH TV 'TIL I GO TO BED.
OR WHEN I TURN OVER IN MY FUTON AND SUDDENLY THINK, "HUH?"--
--AND THEN I REMEMBER WHY IT'S EMPTY.
IN THIS WIDE WORLD...
...YOU MIGHT FIND WOMEN SO STRONG THEY CAN LIVE THEIR LIVES WITHOUT NEEDING THE SUPPORT OF ANYONE ELSE.

WHETHER SHE "SURVIVES" OR "DOESN'T SURVIVE," "FINDS IT "TOUGH" OR "NOT SO TOUGH"-- THOSE ARE SEPARATE ISSUES.
BUT IT'S GOTTA BE HARD FOR A MAN TO JUST LET A WOMAN GO ON THINKING, "I MUST BE STRONG ON MY OWN."


YEAH... KINDA.
KINDA LONG, HUH?
TWO YEARS.

UH, YEAH, BUT..
. WELL THAT WAS HALF OF IT. THE OTHER...

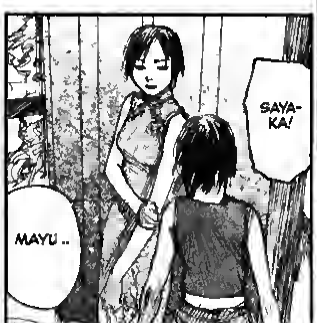
YOU WANTED TO MAKE ME FEEL HAPPY, RIGHT?

THANKS FOR TODAY.
HM?

HUH?!
!!
C'MON! HAVE A DRAG!
WELL, IF THAT WAS YOUR INTENTION...
...THEN YOU'VE GOTTA LOOK AFTER ME RIGHT TO THE END, OKAY?
IF YOU MEET SOMEONE FOR JUST THE AFTERNOON...
...YOU END UP TOO LONELY THE REST OF THE DAY!
TH-THIS IS EXTORTION!!
YOUR TREAT!
DRINK SOME SAKE WITH ME!

SERI-OUSLY ?!!
IF WE DRINK ALL NIGHT TOGETHER, THEN TOMOR-ROW...
...IT'LL FEEL LIKE THE TWO OF US'VE BECOME EVEN FRIENDLIER!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?! JUST A SECOND AGO WE WERE HAVING A REGULAR CONVER-SATION!
AND-- WHERE AM I?! IS THIS HELL?!
HUH?
UH... ALL RIGHT!
30,000 IN WALLET -
ALCOHOL
HOTEL
REALLY?! THEN YOU'LL LET ME CHOOSE THE LOCATION?
CLUB MADELINE
CLUB
クラブ
菊
Pub
...AKAGI, ISN'T THIS YOUR--
BUT...

GOOD EVENING!
WELCOME TO THE PALACE OF FAIRIES!
AH... AM I IN HEAVEN?!
IT MIGHT LOOK THAT WAY, BUT NOT EXACTLY.
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SEE THE BILL! HEH HEH HEH
11


SAYA-KA!
MAYU ..

AH! AKAGI--
OKAY, NOW SIT! SIT!
TAKE THAT OFF!
TAKE IT OFF FOR WHAT?
SORRY, I'M LATE, MA'AM!
HURRY UP AND GET CHANGED!

SEEMS LIKE THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE FINAL SHOWDOWN.
I'M KEEPING MY PROMISE.
HA! WITH THAT SCRAWNY PUNK AS MY OPPONENT?
LET ME WARN YOU--MY PARTNER IS SUPER-POWER-FUL!

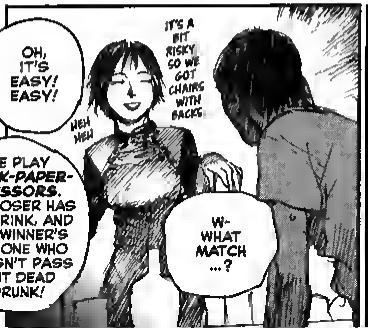
TONO! HEY! CAN YOU COME OVER HERE?

TOUGH... FOR WHO...?
PLUS, IT'S TOUGH TO THINK UP DIFFERENT DRESSES FOR EVERY-ONE, SEE?
QUIET!

IT'S CHINA WEEK! NICE, AREN'T THEY? ♥
YEAH!
UMM.. WHY IS EVERYONE WEARING CHINESE DRESSES?

AKAGI, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
AND WHO THE HELL'S THIS FOREIGN GUY...?!

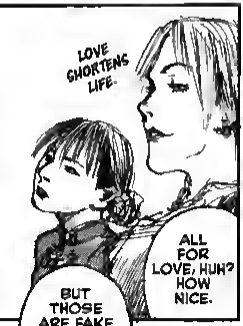
I'LL MAKE THIS REAL SIMPLE.
SAYAKA AND I WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH TOGETHER, AND--
ANYWAY, WHOEVER LOSES THE MATCH HAS TO GO BACK TO OUR HOMETOWN!


IT'S A BIT RISKY, SO WE GOT CHAIRS WITH BACKS
OH, IT'S EASY! EASY!
HEH HEH
WE PLAY ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS. THE LOSER HAS TO DRINK, AND THE WINNER'S THE ONE WHO DOESN'T PASS OUT DEAD DRUNK!
W-WHAT MATCH...?

AKAGI'S GOING BACK TO HER HOME-TOWN?!
WHERE IS THAT EXACTLY?
IT CAN'T BE!

BY THE WAY, SAYAKA, YOUR PARTNER THERE...?
OH, THIS GUY?
--AND OUR PARTNERS WILL BE THE ONES DOING THE DRINKING
ONLY, WE'LL BE THE ONES PLAYING ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS--
THE BLOOD-CURDLING RULES!
DON'T FAIL ME, KIMO-SABE!
BUT HE'S RELIABLE, SO I'LL PLACE MY BETS ON HIM!
HE'S BEEN DRINKING THE CHEAP, STRONG STUFF TONS OF IT!
APPARENTLY, HE'S LOST HIS REASON FOR LIVING WHO KNOWS WHAT BROUGHT HIM TO JAPAN
HE'S BEEN SITTING THERE LIKE THAT SINCE LAST NIGHT. I THINK HE'S ITALIAN.
HERE WE GO! READY, SET--
ROCK! PAPER!!
ARE YOU READY?
W-WAIT A--
.. ALL RIGHT, WHATEVER. NO PROBLEM.
EVEN BY MY STANDARDS.

WE'VE GOT NO CUSTOMERS.
WHAT'SA MATTER WITH YOU?
LOST AGAIN !!
RGH!
GOD, YOU HAVEN'T WON ONCE!
YAAY!!
WINNA!!
YOU OKAY?


LOVE SHORTENS LIFE.
ALL FOR LOVE, HUH? HOW NICE.
BUT THOSE ARE FAKE TEARS, RIGHT?

FOR-GIVE ME..
TEAR
N-NO! I'LL HANG IN THERE!!

AKA... AKAGI.. I... CAN'T..
SORRY! MY FAULT! I LOST AGAIN!
I'M BEATEN!

MAYBE...
IS HE DYING?
HE'S MUMBLING TO HIMSELF...
IS HE STILL CONSCIOUS? SHOULD WE TEST HIM?
GHRG
HIC
BUT, WAIT!
GHRG
COMPARED TO THE PAIN OF THAT GIRL WHO LOST HER GOLD MEDAL FOR TAKING FLU MEDICINE, THIS IS NOTHING...!!
HURRK! SO HARD!! I'M GONNA DIE!!
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HAH
HOW DID I END UP IN THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
EAST 2ND ROUND SOUTH PLAYER 5TH ROUND
..UH..
WHAT WOULD YOU DROP?
'SCUSE ME!
GUUUH?!
HERE WE GO! READY, SET...
ARRAN
REALLY? THE ‖ WORKS GOOD TOO
'COURSE I ONLY PLAY DIGITAL
NO WAY! I KNEW HE WAS OUT OF IT! THE ONLY MOVE IS TO DROP THE ‖!!
SEEMS DECENT ENOUGH.

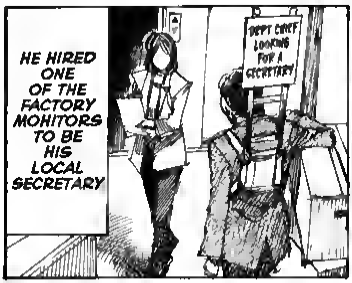
AWWLL RIGHT!! HEE-YAA!!
SCUSE ME...? HEY! ARE YOU AWAKE?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SO HAPPY TO SEE A GROWN WOMAN CRY!
MORON!
SORRY...
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO RUN YOUR STORY THIS EPISODE, BUT WE'LL PUT THE WHOLE THING IN NEXT TIME. RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
BOOHUH-HUH, MOTHERRR...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW? ALL ON MY OWN?
MAMA!! I COME TO JOIN YOU!!
ACK! THAT PIZZA-EATING BASTARD'S RUNNING AWAY!!
SKASH
HUH?!
MAMA!!

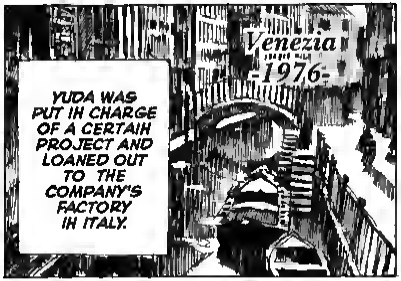
HEY, WAIT!! HE DIDN'T EVEN PAY FOR HIS DRINKS!
JUDGMENT, GIRLS?
OH! WELCOME!
HEY! THIS GUY'S EYES'VE ROLLED BACK!
FINE! I'LL ORGANIZE THE CLASS REUNION!
GUESS I'M STUCK WITH IT...
UH THE FOREIGNER THAT WAS IN HERE? HE'S OUT IN THE STREET BAWLING LIKE A BABY AND PUNCHING PEOPLE!
HUH? THAT WAS THE MATCH? THAT'S IT?
YA-HOO!!
SO WHAT THE HELL WAS THE POINT OF THE LAST EIGHT PAGES?
TO BE CON-TIN-UED!
...BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT...
I GET THE FEELING SOMETHING AWFUL HAPPENED TO ME YESTERDAY..
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP!
THE NEXT MORNING AKAGI'S APART-MENT, TAKI'S ROOM..
RRRHH... MY HEAD..

#Manga-Sketchbook@freelighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

#03 ALL FOR GAIN

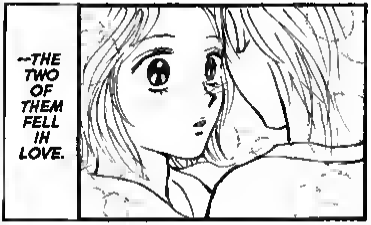
HEAD OF HICHIROSEIFUH CORP'S MERCHAN-DISING DEPARTMENT.
THE MAH'S HAME WAS NOBORU YUDA (AGE 40).


HE HIRED ONE OF THE FACTORY MOHITORS TO BE HIS LOCAL SECRETARY
DEPT CHIEF LOOKING FOR A SECRETARY

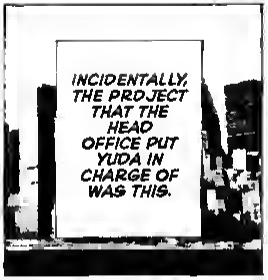

YUDA WAS PUT IH CHARGE OF A CERTAIH PROJECT AND LOANED OUT TO THE COMPANY'S FACTORY IH ITALY.
Venezia
-1976-

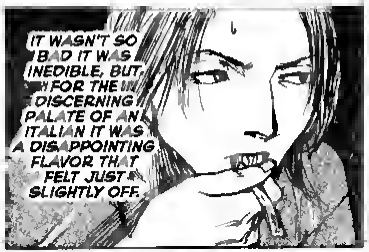
...BEGAN TO ROLL FORWARD.
AND SO THE STEAM ENGINE KNOWN BY THE NAME OF FATE...
Gricina Assassino
(AGE 23 AT THE TIME, BORN IN GENOVA)

Che cosa è questo?
Anaga
THE WOMAN WAS INTELLIGENT, INEXPERIENCED IH THE EATIHG CUSTOMS OF ITALY. YUDA HAD FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS OH THIS SUBJECT WITH HER, AND AS THEY TALKED--


--THE TWO OF THEM FELL IH LOVE.

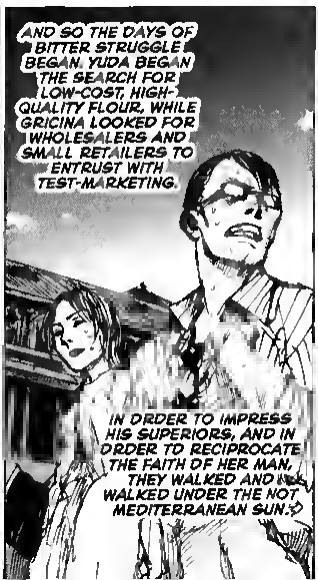
IN ORDER TO USE THE SLOGAN "APPROVED BY ITALIANS," IT HAD TO FIRST BE RELEASED INTO THE ITALIAN MARKET AND THEN BACK-IMPORTED INTO JAPAN. CONSIDERING JAPANESE NOODLE-MAKING TECHNOLOGY OF THE TIME, THIS WOULD BE NO MEAN FEAT.
"ITALIAN SEAL OF APPROVAL" SERIES
(INSTANT PASTA)

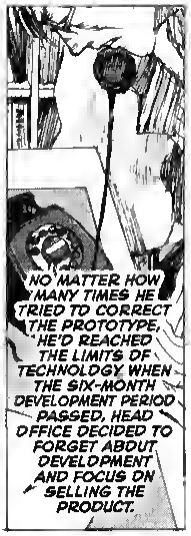

INCIDENTALLY, THE PROJECT THAT THE HEAD OFFICE PUT YUDA IN CHARGE OF WAS THIS.

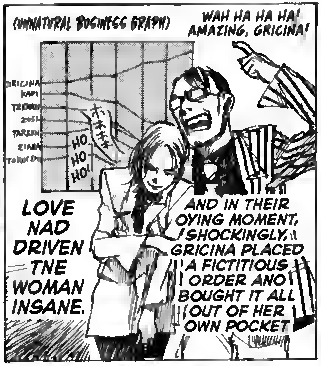

IT WASN'T SO BAD IT WAS INEDIBLE, BUT FOR THE DISCERNING PALATE OF AN ITALIAN IT WAS A DISAPPOINTING FLAVOR THAT FELT JUST SLIGHTLY OFF.

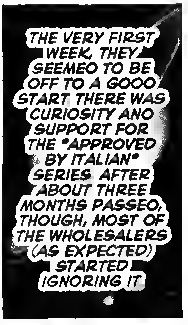
YUDA ENTRUSTED GRICINA WITH TASTE-TESTING THE PROTOTYPE. BUT THE TASTE...?

BUT.

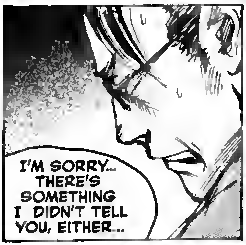

AND SO THE DAYS OF BITTER STRUGGLE BEGAN. YUDA BEGAN THE SEARCH FOR LOW-COST, HIGH-QUALITY FLOUR, WHILE GRICINA LOOKED FOR WHOLESALERS AND SMALL RETAILERS TO ENTRUST WITH TEST-MARKETING.
IN ORDER TO IMPRESS HIS SUPERIORS, AND IN ORDER TO RECIPROCATE THE FAITH OF HER MAN, THEY WALKED AND WALKED UNDER THE HOT MEDITERRANEAN SUN.


NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE TRIED TO CORRECT THE PROTOTYPE, HE'D REACHED THE LIMITS OF TECHNOLOGY. WHEN THE SIX-MONTH DEVELOPMENT PERIOD PASSED, HEAD OFFICE DECIDED TO FORGET ABOUT DEVELOPMENT AND FOCUS ON SELLING THE PRODUCT.

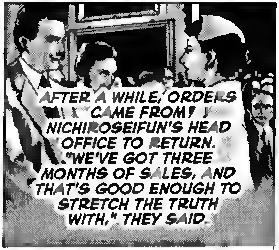

(UNNATURAL BOGWEGG GRAPH)
WAH HA HA HA! AMAZING, GRICINA!
HO HO HO!
LOVE NAD DRIVEN TNE WOMAN INSANE.
AND IN THEIR OYING MOMENT, SHOCKINGLY, GRICINA PLACED A FICTITIOUS ORDER ANO BOUGHT IT ALL OUT OF HER OWN POCKET


THE VERY FIRST WEEK, THEY SEEMED TO BE OFF TO A GOOO START THERE WAS CURIOSITY ANO SUPPORT FOR THE "APPROVED BY ITALIAN" SERIES. AFTER ABOUT THREE MONTHS PASSED, THOUGH, MOST OF THE WHOLESALERS (AS EXPECTED) STARTED IGNORING IT

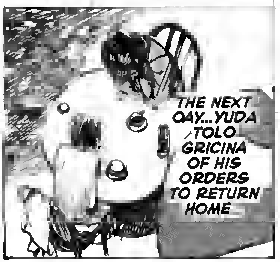
AFTER LESS THAN A MONTH, HER HAIR STARTED FALLING OUT, HER NAILS AND LIPS LOST THEIR COLOR, AND HER SKIN LOST ITS LUSTER.
HOWEVER, ONE COULO NOT EXPECT THE ITALIANS, PEOPLE OF THE SEA AND SUN, TO BE ABLE TO ENOURE A MICROWAVE PASTA-EATING LIFESTYLE LIKE A PENNILESS JAPANESE UNIVERSITY STUDENT.


I'M SORRY... THERE'S SOMETHING I DIDN'T TELL YOU, EITHER...

TAKE ME WITH YOU!!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING BEFORE, BUT I'M CARRYING YOUR--

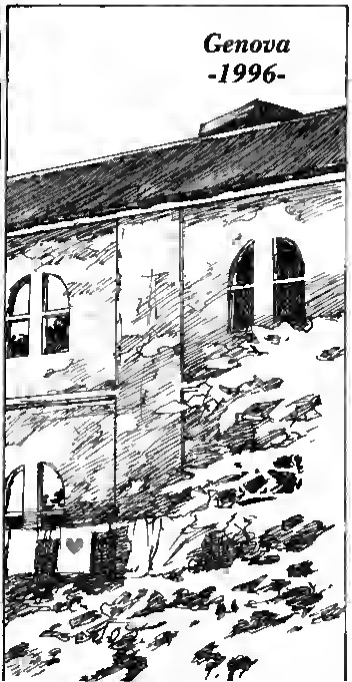

AFTER A WHILE, ORDERS CAME FROM NICHIROSEIFUN'S HEAD OFFICE TO RETURN. "WE'VE GOT THREE MONTHS OF SALES, AND THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO STRETCH THE TRUTH WITH," THEY SAID.

GAHH!
ACTUALLY, I HAVE A WIFE AND CHILDREN IN JAPAN...
LOOK, PHOTO
PESCA-TORE!!


THE NEXT OAY...YUDA TOLO GRICINA OF HIS ORDERS TO RETURN HOME

PART TWO -- BARONE ASSASSINO

THE CRUELTY OF YOUTH



ズッ
SLURP
ズル
SLRP

FEH!

WHAM!
UH-FNGH

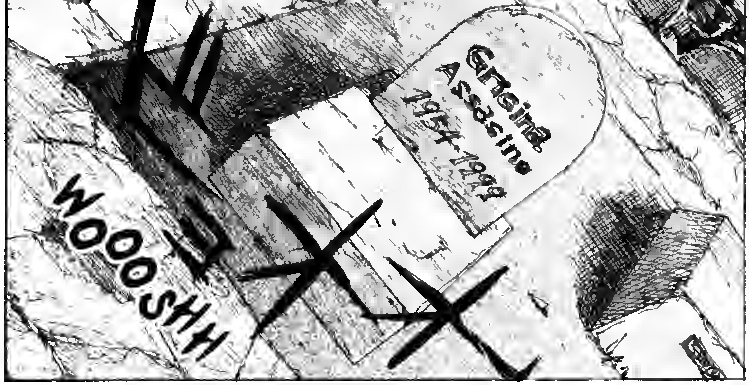
KWAA!

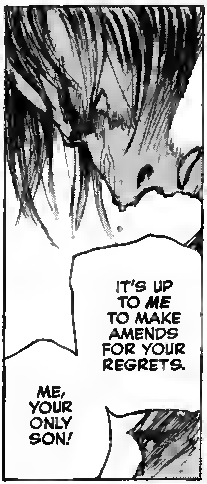
YES, MAMA.
GOOD... WELL DONE.
DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'RE FEELING NOW...

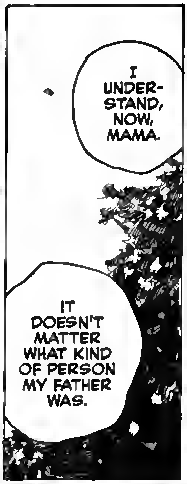
THIS IS PIG FOOD !!

..I HAVE SOME-THING FOR YOU.
?
RELAX. IT'LL GET THROUGH CUSTOMS. THIS ONE'S MADE OF SPECIAL PLASTIC.
!!
M-MAMA! WHERE DID YOU GET THIS?!
"THIS ONE"...?
DON'T WORRY! YOU'LL BE FINE..! THIS IS THE REASON I MADE YOU STUDY JAPANESE SO HARD!
I'LL GIVE YOU CASH AND A PASSPORT LATER.
YOU'RE TWENTY-TWO NOW. I'VE RAISED YOU BIG AND STRONG, HAVEN'T I, BARONE?
HOW FORTUNATE YOU DON'T LOOK ANYTHING LIKE *HIM*... HOW VERY FORTUNATE

EVER SINCE HE WAS A BOY, HE WAS FORCED TO HEAR OF ALL THE HATE AND ANGER AGAINST THE MAN THAT THREW HIM AWAY, UNTIL BARONE HIMSELF NATURALLY CAME TO DESPISE THE FATHER HE'D NEVER SEEN.
AHH, BARONE... TELL ME YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL NEVER BETRAY YOUR MAMA, WILL YOU?
NO!
SHREWDLY, HIS MOTHER SENSED HIS HESITATION.
NOW, FINDING HIMSELF BACKED INTO A CORNER...
...DOUBTS CAME BUBBLING UP TO THE SURFACE: "UMM...SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN I'M SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE?"
COUGH COUGH
TH-THE...
HO AR K!
MAMA P!
I'LL STAND BY YOU ALWAYS, MAMA-AAA!!
SAME LINE, ONE MORE TIME...
AHH, BARONE... TELL ME YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL NEVER BETRAY YOU MAMA, WILL YOU?
MAMA! LOOK--
SHAKE WOMAN
F M P
TH-THAT MAN... USED MY BODY LIKE A TOY...!
--ALL THIS FISHY TALK IS RUINING YOUR BODY...
COUGH COUGH
I WAS STILL A VIRGIN...


Gnaina
Assassino
1954-1999
WOOO SHH
TAK
TAK

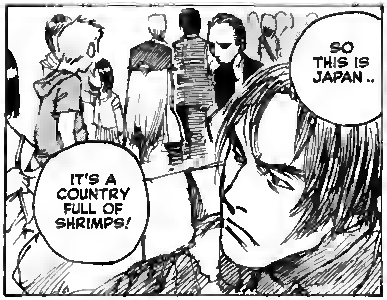

IT'S UP TO ME TO MAKE AMENDS FOR YOUR REGRETS.
ME, YOUR ONLY SON!


I UNDER-STAND, NOW, MAMA.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KIND OF PERSON MY FATHER WAS.

SHUUU

AND SO BARONE, THE HITMAN, LEFT ITALY BEHIND.
JUST YOU WAIT FOR ME, OLD MAN!
TAKE A PLANE!

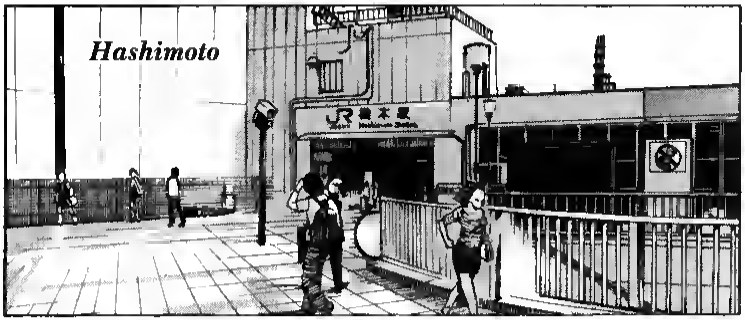
Tokyo Giappone
-2000-


SO THIS IS JAPAN..
IT'S A COUNTRY FULL OF SHRIMPS!

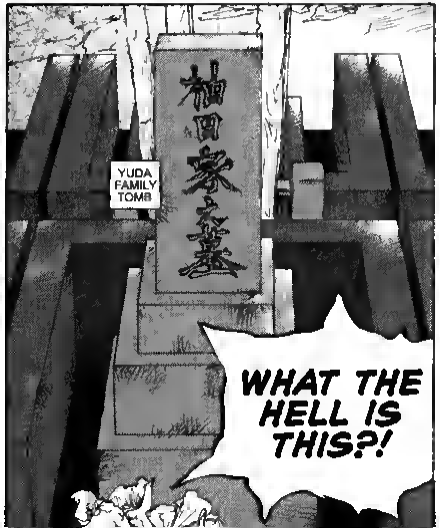
ONLY, HE HIMSELF DID NOT NOTICE THIS .BUT THE TALE OF THE BLOOMING OF THIS ABUNDANT TALENT WILL COME A BIT LATER
IN FACT, RIGHT THEN, THIS MAN WITH HIS JACKET COLLAR UP AND TROUBLED FACE BEGAN TO UNINTENTIONALLY COLLECT STARES FROM THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM (ESPECIALLY THE WOMEN)

O-HO HO HO! HO HO HO HO!
HAHAHA! YESTERDAY WAS THE NINE GATES!
W-WHAT WAS HIS ADDRESS?! HIS ADDRESS!!
UMM... ELEVEN YEARS AGO.

—DUNNNN—
HE'S DEAD ?!
WHAT ?!


Hashimoto

AH. HE WAS A GOOD MAN.
HALF-SISTER
IT'S A HORRIBLE STORY...HE WAS SENT TO PEKING TO WORK ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF "CHINESE SEAL OF APPROVAL" RAMEN—
—AND THE SAME THING HAPPENED! HUHHH...

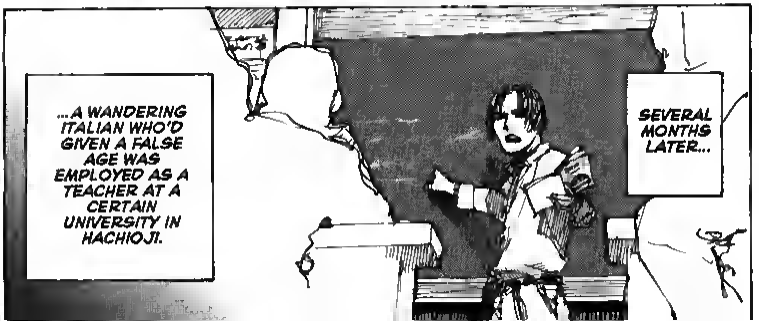

YUDA FAMILY TOMB
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!

(IN ITALIAN)

"I CAN'T HOLD ANYTHING AGAINST THESE PEOPLE"...BY THE TIME BARONE REALIZED THIS, HIS SPIRIT HAD ALREADY BEEN REDUCED TO RUBBLE.
INCIDENTALLY, HOW DID YOU KNOW MY FATHER..?
UM ..UH, I'M THE SON OF ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES IN ITALY..
→ KIND OF TRUE
WHAT DO I DO NOW?! WHAT DO I DO--
--IN THIS ISLAND COUNTRY!
TWENTY-TWO YEARS...
TWENTY-TWO YEARS! I...LIVED ONLY FOR THIS DAY...
UUOOOOOH!!
うおおお

"I HAVE TO WORK... AND LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY," HE THOUGHT...
...AND SO RESOLVED, UPON FINALLY OPENING HIS EYES AGAIN AFTER A FIVE-DAY BINGE DRINKING SPREE.

WELL, THEN...
RESUME (FORGED, OF COURSE)

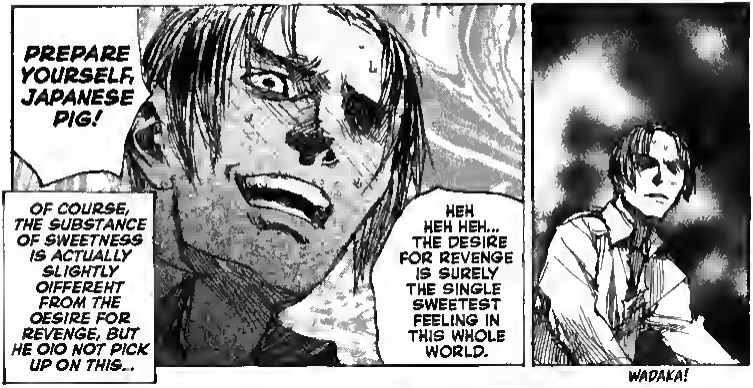

...A WANDERING ITALIAN WHO'D GIVEN A FALSE AGE WAS EMPLOYED AS A TEACHER AT A CERTAIN UNIVERSITY IN HACHIOJI.
SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...

THERE HE IS! THE BARON!
BAGEL AND HAM
HE DID IT! HE DID IT!
WATCH! HE'LL DROP HIS CHOP-STICKS!
HE'S EATING UDON NOO-DLES!
WHAT A FIGHTER!
ABOUT TWO WEEKS AFTER LANDING THE UNIVERSITY JOB, BARONE BECAME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT AT SOME POINT THE STUDENTS HAD STARTED FLOCKING TO HIM AND CALLING HIM "THE BARON"--ESPECIALLY THE GIRLS
?
HOW ADOR-ABLE, SENSE!
♡
O-OF COURSE! MAMA ALWAYS SAID TO ME, "YOU HAVE SUCH A NICE FACE!"
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS SO BIZARRE THAT, FOR SOME REASON, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO DISTANT FROM WOMEN
FINALLY, HE REALIZED...
YET, HE HAD HEARD THAT THE JAPANESE WERE PRONE TO AVOIDING FOREIGNERS
FOR A WHILE, DESPITE BEING BAFFLED BY THIS CONTRA-DICTION, HE ENJOYED HIS LIFE.

A BEAUTY WHO INNOCENTLY WORKS HIS HARDEST AND MAKES OCCASIONAL BLUNDERS IS EVEN MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN A DEMURE ONE! HEH HEH HEH!
I'LL USE IT AGAINST THEM!!
HOW GOOD IF I COULD MAKE THEM FALL FOR MY VULNERABILITY!
EPIPHANY!
WOW! IT'S SO TIDY!
YOU REALLY DON'T MIND IF I COME IN?
BARONE TESTED HIS LUCK WITH ONE OF HIS PUPILS.
SECOND YEAR LIT MAJOR
Mikito Fukushima
SENSEI, WHY DID YOU CALL ME HERE TODAY?
...
HAHAHAHA
OH, HOW DELICIOUS!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT'D BE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY IT'S MADE HERE!
I'M MAKING LINGUINE! HAVE SOME, PLEASE!
Si, volentieri!

I'M USED TO SPEAKING THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE, BUT THE PRESSURES OF JAPANESE CULTURE ARE GREATER THAN I'D IMAGINED THEY WOULD BE.
IF I GO HOME NOW, I'LL FEEL DEFEATED... YET I HAVE NO FRIENDS HERE IN WHOM I CAN CONFIDE MY FEARS AND ANXIETIES
MISS FUKUSHIMA, YOU ARE THE MOST KIND-HEARTED PERSON IN MY LECTURES, SO...
SNIFF...
...SEN-SEI...
VULNER-ABILITY!
DON'T WORRY, SEN-SEI...
...I'LL TEACH YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT ABOUT JAPAN.
...AND YOU CAN TELL ME ABOUT ALL YOUR TROUBLES
"THIS IS MY DESTINY IN LIFE... TO TAKE THESE JAPANESE WOMEN CHEW THEM UP AND SPIT THEM OUT ONE AFTER ANOTHER/ THIS SHALL BE MY GREAT REVENGE AGAINST THE JAPANESE PEOPLE!"
THAT NIGHT, BARONE MADE A DECISION

THAT GIRL... I'M SURE SHE'S IN MY ITALIAN--
UM...
...


PREPARE YOURSELF, JAPANESE PIG!
OF COURSE, THE SUBSTANCE OF SWEETNESS IS ACTUALLY SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE, BUT HE DID NOT PICK UP ON THIS...
HEH HEH HEH... THE DESIRE FOR REVENGE IS SURELY THE SINGLE SWEETEST FEELING IN THIS WHOLE WORLD.
WADAKA!

--IS JUST ABOUT AS LAME AS BEING HARD-HEADED ABOUT LINING UP *THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY* ON YOUR BOOKSHELF IN THE MOST CONSPICUOUS PLACE, OKAY?!!
LET ME PUT IT TO YOU STRAIGHT! I FIGURE BEING HARD-HEADED ABOUT COVERING MOLDY OLD SONGS FROM A MUSICAL GENRE THAT'S WAY PAST ITS EXPIRATION DATE--

■INGENIOUS PIGS GENIOUS

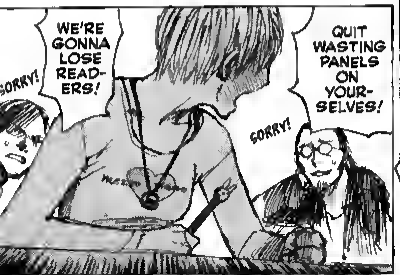
TAKE IT EASY —[CD] TECB-0833
(PRICE INCLUDING TAX-1,000 YEN)

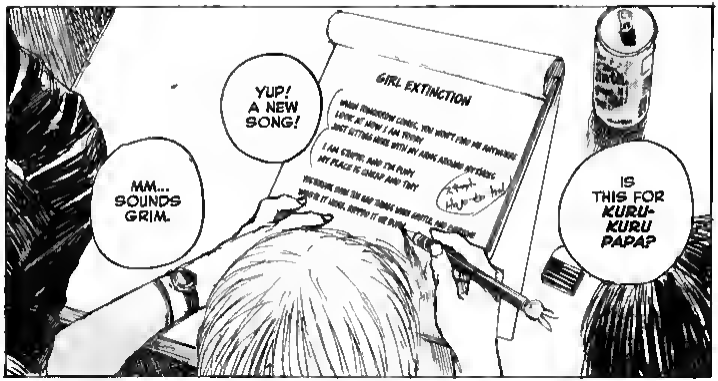
①WELCOME TO HELL ②LIVE LIKE AN ANGEL ③IN LEAGUE WITH SATAN ④BLOOD LUST ⑤WITCHING HOUR ⑥NIGHTMARE

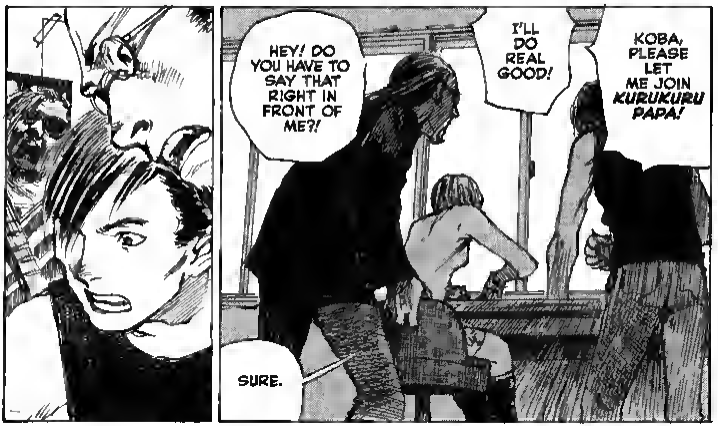
Debut mini album from a two-person band of Japanese Doom Rockers. Every track is a Venom cover. Other bands have also focused on covers for their debut album, but this one is exceptional. Why? Why Venom now?! Although the performances are amateur, they are actually almost better than the originals (except the vocals) which are about the same level (or maybe worse). Regarding the thinking behind it- I have no idea who this album is aimed at. Has no relation to the world we live in.

WE SHOULD GET A GIRL ON VOCALS! 'CAUSE I LIKE SINGERS LIKE AIKO AND YAIKO.
I GET IT ALREADY! SO WHAT THE HELL WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO WITH GENIOUS?
I MEAN, YOUR SINGING IS PRETTY OUT THERE!
PUFFOO

JAPANESE PEOPLE LIKE YOU KEEP TALKING AS IF THE STRESS RELEASE IS GONNA KEEP YOU FROM GOING BALD!
LIKE, MAYBE WE COULD DO SCAT.
LIKE MAYUMI KOJIMA...
ANYWAY, ANY GENRE THAT DOESN'T HAVE A LABEL LIKE "DEATH" OR "GRIND CORE"...!

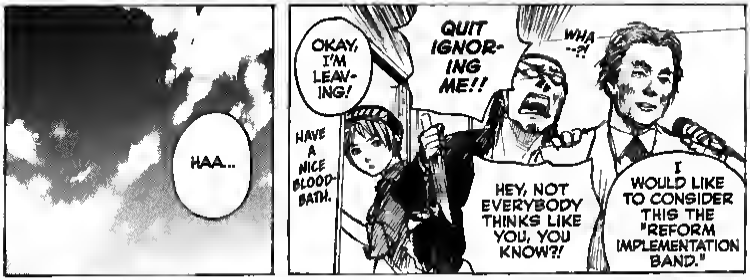



GIRL EXTINCTION
YUP! A NEW SONG!
MM... SOUNDS GRIM.
IS THIS FOR KURU-KURU PAPA?


HEY! DO YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME?!
I'LL DO REAL GOOD!
KOBA, PLEASE LET ME JOIN KURUKURU PAPA!
SURE.

SO ALL OF A SUDDEN, IN THE COURSE OF A WEEK, I'VE BEEN LEFT ALL ALONE. AS LONG AS YOU'RE ASKING-- SOSUKE, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN TOO?
JUST A WHILE BACK, MASA, OUR GUITAR PLAYER, WAS IN A MOTORBIKE ACCIDENT AND TORE THE TENDONS IN HIS RIGHT HAND. THEY SAY HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO BEND HIS THUMB AGAIN.
AND SHUU, OUR BASS PLAYER, SAID HE HAD TO GO BACK TO CHINA TO TAKE OVER HIS FAMILY RESTAURANT AFTER HIS FATHER COLLAPSED

NO-- THAT'S EVEN BETTER!!
THAT'S GREAT!
WE GET RID OF THE "GENIOUS" PART AND JUST CALL IT "KURUKURU PAPA!"
MORON!
HOW 'BOUT WE CALL IT "GENIOUS, FEATURING REIKO KOSARUKAWA (OF KURUKURU PAPA)"...?
HO-HO! THAT DON'T SOUND HALF BAD, EH?


HAA...
OKAY, I'M LEAV-ING!
HAVE A NICE BLOOD-BATH.
QUIT IGNOR-ING ME!!
WHA--?!
HEY, NOT EVERYBODY THINKS LIKE YOU, YOU KNOW?!
I WOULD LIKE TO CONSIDER THIS THE "REFORM IMPLEMENTATION BAND."

...IF SUMMER VACATION GOES ON LIKE THIS.
ALL OF JAPAN'S STUDENTS ARE GONNA TURN INTO IDIOTS...

OH! SENSEI!
...
PUNCH
GAIN
YES. MY FRIEND FROM ITALY WILL BE COMING TO VISIT SOON, YOU SEE.
DINNER TO-GETHER ?!
--I DON'T WANT TO JUST JUDGE FROM THE OUTSIDE. I WANT TO TASTE THEM AND SEE...
BUT... THERE ARE SO FEW GOOD RESTAU-RANTS IN JAPAN--
AMONG THE PEOPLE WHO COME TO MY LECTURES, THERE ARE VERY FEW WHO HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN LIVING IN HACHIOJI FOR A LONG TIME.
YEAH, BUT WHY WITH MEP
120cm
15cm

I'LL GO!!
DINNER WITH THE BARON? HIS TREAT?!
HOW ABOUT IT? OF COURSE, I WILL PAY FOR IT.
...
...WELL...
YEAH.
I CAN'T SEE ANY REASON WHY YOU'D NEED TO BE IN THE RESTAURANT TOGETNER.
COURSE, IT'S A COME-ON ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, AIN'T IT?
MAYBE I SHOULD-N'T GO...
BUT WHEN I ASKED HIM IF IT WAS OKAY TO BRING A FRIEND, HE GOT THIS WEIRD LOOK ON HIS FACE...IT KINDA LEFT AN IMPRES-SION.
YOU DON'T SEE HIM TALKING TO THE GIRLS SO MUCH, DO YOU?
...BUT I DON'T THINK HE'S THAT KINDA GUY.
THE ITALIAN WINS!

YOU GONNA TELL TONO?
HUH ?!
YEAH...
...IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S A DATE.
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANNA TELL KIDO?
YES.
I DID.
RIGHT HERE.
DID YOU KISS HIM?

YAAEEE!!
SPLASH
SCCCCH

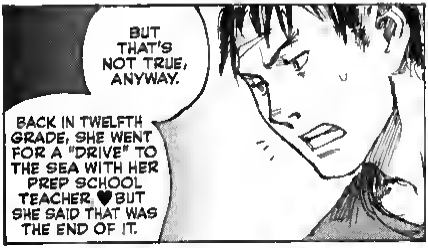
I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN, SOSUKE.
GIMME SOME DAMN MONEY!

WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU TALKING TO ME LIKE THAT FOR?!
SORRY.
ALL I NEED IS 10,000.
DON'T YOU HAVE A SISTER AT HOME?
OKAY, I'LL LOAN YOU. BOW YOUR HEAD!
YOU THINK I CAN ASK MY *FAMILY* FOR DATE MONEY?!
SHIT
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU...
THAT A COMPLIMENT OR AN INSULT?!
WELL? SO, HOW'D IT GO? AT THE ZOO?
HA HA HA...
I PAID FOR EVERYTHING. THE END!

WHEN'S KOBARUKAWA EVER GONNA LET ME IN HER PANTS...?
HAAA...

SHE'S... LIKE SOME KINDA VIRGIN MAIDEN

I'M ASKING YOU, AS HER CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
I AM BEING CONSIDERATE!!
—TRY TO BE A BIT MORE CONSIDERATE!
I'M COMPLAINING BECAUSE I RESPECT HER WISHES!

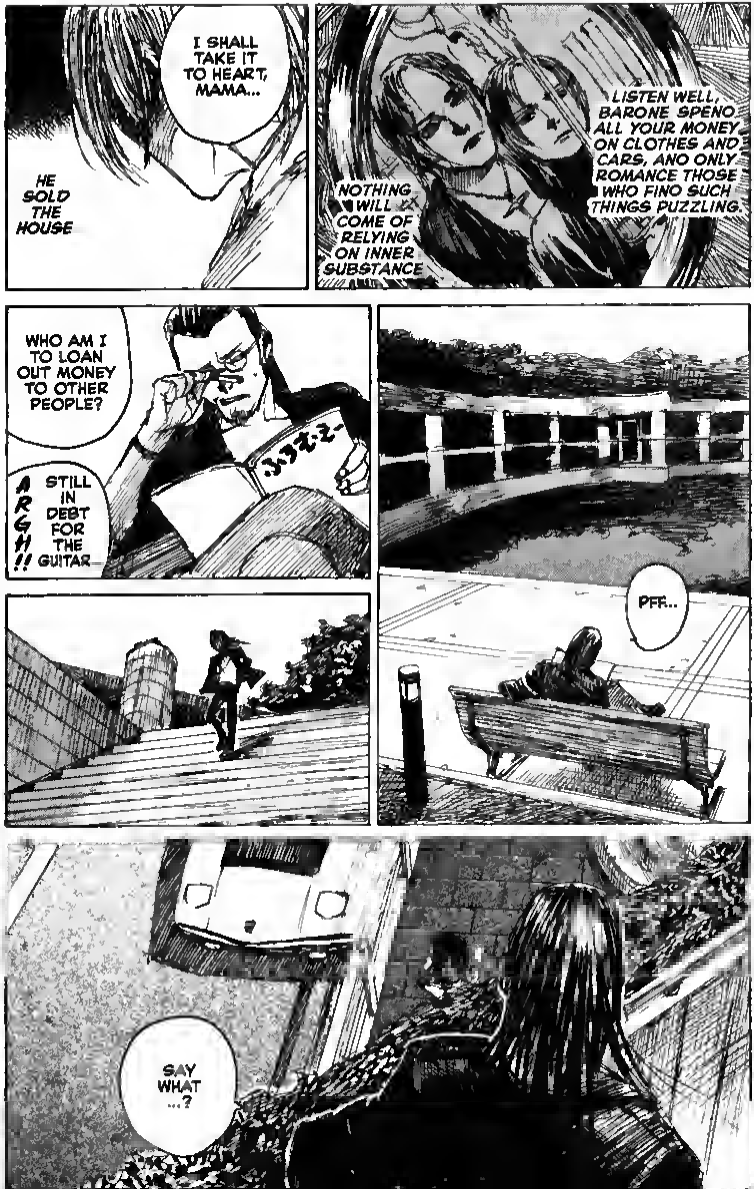

BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE, ANYWAY.
BACK IN TWELFTH GRADE, SHE WENT FOR A "DRIVE" TO THE SEA WITH HER PREP SCHOOL TEACHER ♥ BUT SHE SAID THAT WAS THE END OF IT.

SO WHAT IF SHE'S A VIRGIN ?!
RESPECT HER CHASTITY !!
WHAT'S "CHASTITY" MEAN?
SOME RELIGIOUS WORD...?

AND...
...THAT TIME WHEN SHE WANTED TO MAKE THE STAR PLAYER FEEL BETTER WHEN HE CRIED AFTER LOSING THE KOSHIEN CHAMPIONSHIP...HMM?

...WE NEVER HAD THIS TALK.
...UH-HUH.

ヨーム
SORRY! MY FAULT FOR BEING LATE!
WHAT'S THAT CAR CALLED AGAIN?
I SAW IT IN A SCI-FI BOOK AT MY COUSIN'S HOUSE...
SAW IT ONCE AT THE HARUMI EXHIBITION HALL...


I SHALL TAKE IT TO HEART, MAMA...
HE SOLD THE HOUSE
LISTEN WELL, BARONE SPENO. ALL YOUR MONEY ON CLOTHES AND CARS, AND ONLY ROMANCE THOSE WHO FIND SUCH THINGS PUZZLING.
NOTHING WILL COME OF RELYING ON INNER SUBSTANCE
WHO AM I TO LOAN OUT MONEY TO OTHER PEOPLE?
ARGH!!
STILL IN DEBT FOR THE GUITAR
PFF...
SAY WHAT ...?

--WHO'S THAT FOREIGN GUY?!
HEY! WAIT A SECOND !!

!!

HEY! WAIT A SECOND !!
H--

URMMM
URMMM
URMMM
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?!
AND WHO THE HELL WAS THAT?!
SOME OTHER WOMAN IN BARONE'S CAR ...?!
WHAT?! IT CAN'T BE!!
SECOND YEAR LIT MAJOR Mikoto Fukushima
TO BE CON-TIN-UED!
URMMM
SKREEE

#Manga-Sketchbook@freelighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

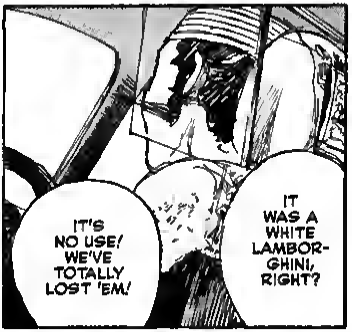
#04
THE SUN

キ
SKD
PP EEEEER
EE EE

A SUPER CAR, AS EXPECT-ED!
PERFECTO! AMAZINGLY AWESOME!
SO, HOW IS IT BACK THERE, MISS AKAGI?
PRINCESS LEIA
I NEVER HEARD THAT!
...BUT FOUR-SEATERS ARE RARE FOR SEVENTIES SPORTS CARS, YOU KNOW!
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE LACK OF LEG ROOM...
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANTED TO HEAR, RIGHT?
CREEPY...
A PROP-ER SUSHI PLACE!!
BACKGROUND MUSIC: GANDHARA
ABSO-LUTELY! THERE MUST BE A SUSHI PLACE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE!
SUSHI! SUSHI!
WHAT'D THE TWO OF YOU LIKE TO EAT?

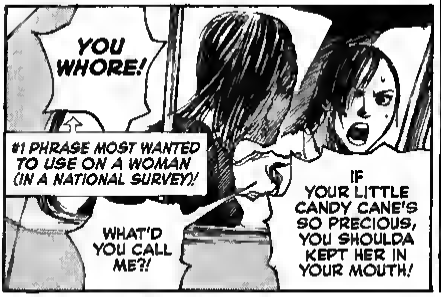
VRMMM
VRMM
RMMMB

KEEP LOOKING, PLEASE! JUST TEN MORE MINUTES!
UMM... WHO ARE YOU EXACTLY?

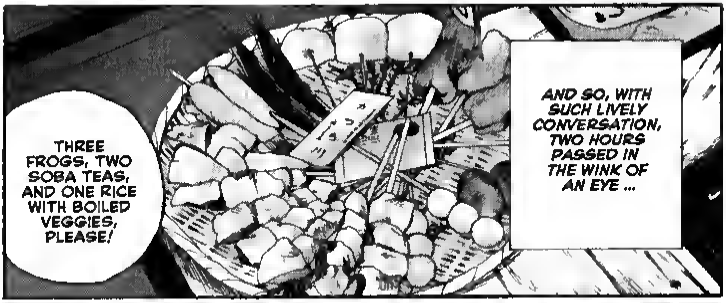

IT'S NO USE! WE'VE TOTALLY LOST 'EM!
IT WAS A WHITE LAMBORGHINI, RIGHT?

...TO BE TRAPPED BY A PUNY LITTLE DEVIL LIKE THAT!
FEH!
BARONE... YOU WERE TOO INNO-CENT..

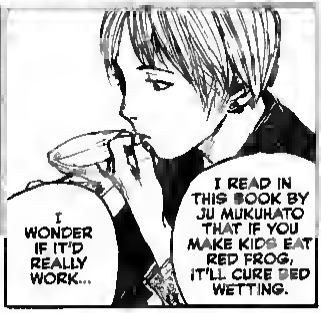
CASH OH HAND 41.062 YEN
CASH ON HAND 700 BITS
URK!
THE PENNILESS MAN WHO STOPPED THE TAXI WILL BE SILENT!!


YOU WHORE!
#1 PHRASE MOST WANTED TO USE ON A WOMAN (IN A NATIONAL SURVEY)!
WHAT'D YOU CALL ME?!
IF YOUR LITTLE CANDY CANE'S SO PRECIOUS, YOU SHOULDA KEPT HER IN YOUR MOUTH!

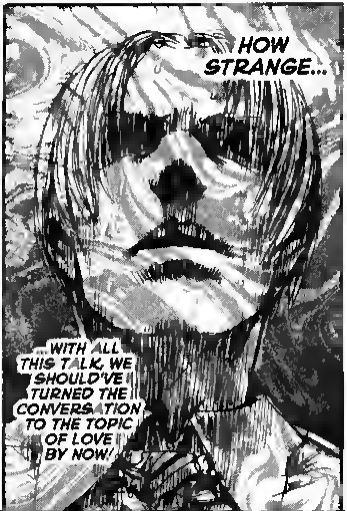
BUT I WANTED A SUSHI PLACE...
HINA SHIMADA
A-HA! I JUST CAME UP WITH A GREAT IDEA TO GET YOU SOME MONEY
SELL THE LAMBORGHINI!!!
I KNEW IT WAS POINTLESS YOU CAN'T TAKE THREE PEOPLE OUT FOR SUSHI ON A TEACHER'S SALARY!
OH? YOU DON'T LIKE ROASTED SKEWERS?
A MAN'S WORTH IS IN FEEDING AND BEING FED!
AH, BUT THAT EXPRESSION'S A LIE.
A SAMURAI FEIGNS WEALTH EVEN WHEN STARVING.. ISN'T THAT AN EXPRESSION THEY HAVE IN JAPAN?


THREE FROGS, TWO SOBA TEAS, AND ONE RICE WITH BOILED VEGGIES, PLEASE!
AND SO, WITH SUCH LIVELY CONVERSATION, TWO HOURS PASSED IN THE WINK OF AN EYE ...

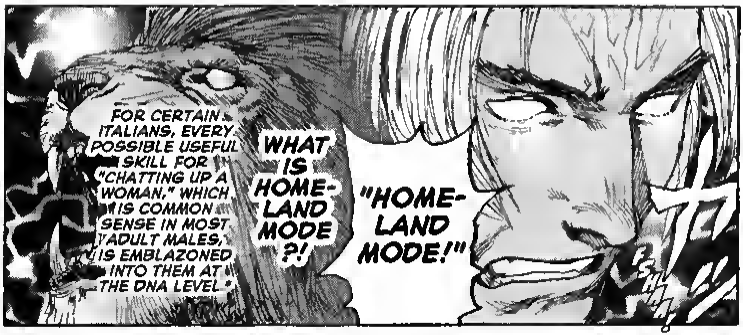
WHOA! YOU SUCK!
VULNERABILITY!
ACTUALLY, I COULDN'T STOP WETTING THE BED TILL I WAS EIGHT.
INEFFECTIVE...

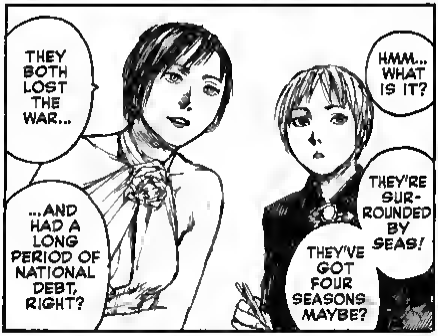

I WONDER IF IT'D REALLY WORK...
I READ IN THIS BOOK BY JU MUKUHATO THAT IF YOU MAKE KIDS EAT RED FROG, IT'LL CURE BED WETTING.

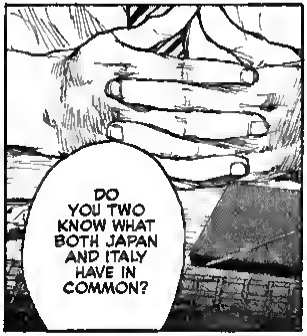
MMM
HAVE A BITE!
ISN'T IT COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT JAPANESE PEOPLE CONSIDER THEMSELVES LUCKY ♡ IF THEY SCORE WITH WHITE PEOPLE?!
I KNOW THE PROBLEM! IT'S YOU! YOU!!
QUIT FLIRTING WITH EACH OTHER!!
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE EXCEPT...


HOW STRANGE...
...WITH ALL THIS TALK, WE SHOULD'VE TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO THE TOPIC OF LOVE BY NOW!

*OUR PUBLISHERS TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY HAZARDS WHICH MAY OCCUR FROM BEHEYONG THIS.

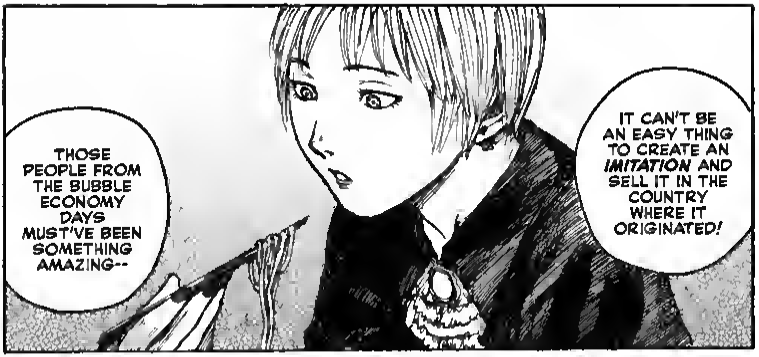

FOR CERTAIN ITALIANS, EVERY POSSIBLE USEFUL SKILL FOR "CHATTING UP A WOMAN," WHICH IS COMMON SENSE IN MOST ADULT MALES, IS EMBLAZONED INTO THEM AT THE DNA LEVEL."
WHAT IS HOME-LAND MODE?!
"HOME-LAND MODE!"


THEY BOTH LOST THE WAR...
...AND HAD A LONG PERIOD OF NATIONAL DEBT, RIGHT?
HMM... WHAT IS IT?
THEY'RE SURROUNDED BY SEAS!
THEY'VE GOT FOUR SEASONS MAYBE?



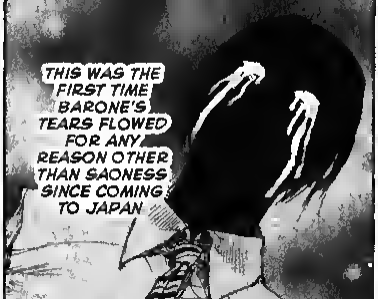
AH, LOOK! OUR DISHES ARE HERE...
DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU THAT IN JAPAN YOU NEED A PROPER INFRA-STRUCTURE TO EVEN CHAT UP A WOMAN!?
HE'S GOT AN "OH, BUT I DID" LOOK ON HIS FACE! THE BASTARD
...UHH... THANK YOU.
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
HA HA HA! I DON'T REMEMBER GIVING YOU A COMPLI-MENT!
OH, BUT I DID.
THESE ARE REGULAR SOBA NOODLES, AND THESE ARE...
Soba— Ho capito
UDON IS TASTIER.
WELL?
WHAT'S THIS?

COME ON! YOU KNOW. "ITALIAN SEAL OF APPROVAL."
HMM. I WONDER IF YOUR GENERATION HAD IT?
OH! MAYBE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT, BUT--
UH... NO.
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME HAVING THIN JAPANESE NOODLES?
SHATTER
かた
BEFORE THAT, THE ASSUMPTION THAT SPAGHETTI WAS "ITALIAN FOOD" SEEMED SUSPECT, DON'T YOU THINK?
BACK THEN, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING BUT MEAT SAUCE AND NAPOLITAN, HUH?
DING DONG DING
THAT'S RIGHT ONCE EVERY THREE DAYS!
YOU HAVE IT ONCE EVERY THREE DAYS, RIGHT?
I PREFER THE "CHINESE" ONE...
DID YOU KNOW THAT THE "ITALIAN" ONE IS OLDER? IT CAME OUT IN THE SEVENTIES

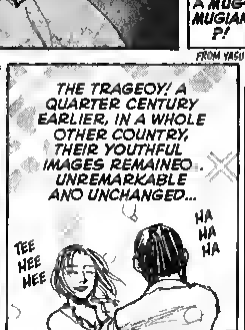

IT CAN'T BE AN EASY THING TO CREATE AN *IMITATION* AND SELL IT IN THE COUNTRY WHERE IT ORIGINATED!
THOSE PEOPLE FROM THE BUBBLE ECONOMY DAYS MUST'VE BEEN SOMETHING AMAZING--

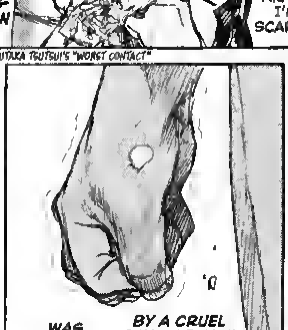
BAMM!
EEK!
W-WHAT'S HE DOING ?!

YEAH, WHAT?

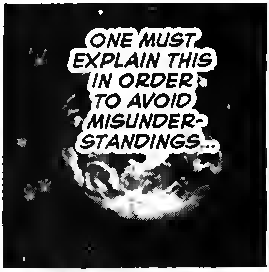


FROM YASUTOKA TSUTSUI'S "WORST CONTACT"

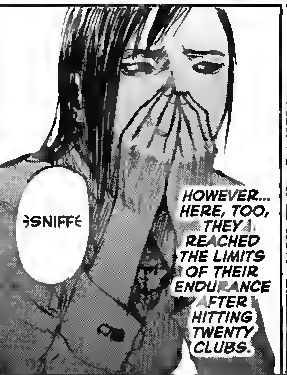

THE TRAGEDY! A QUARTER CENTURY EARLIER, IN A WHOLE OTHER COUNTRY, THEIR YOUTHFUL IMAGES REMAINED UNREMARKABLE AND UNCHANGED...
TEE HEE HEE
HA HA HA
...BUT THEY MET THE FATE THEY DESERVED

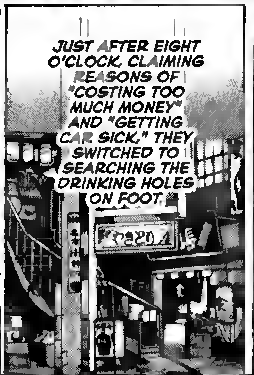


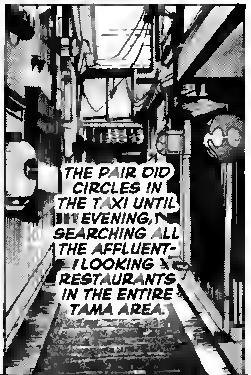
I THINK...I'M STARTING TO FIGURE OUT WHY THIS TEACHER IS SO POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS...
YUP. IT'S HARD TO JUST SAY "GO THE HECK HOME ALREADY!" TO A CREEPY GUY WHO--
--CAN CRY MID-DATE REGARDLESS OF THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THE SITUATION.


ONE MUST EXPLAIN THIS IN ORDER TO AVOID MISUNDER-STANDINGS...

WANT SOME... PISTA-CHIOS?

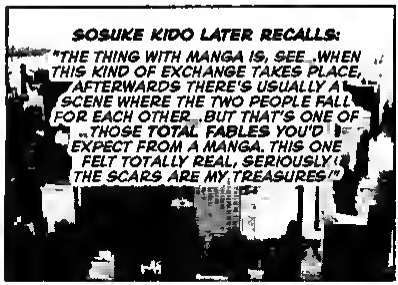

SNIFFF
HOWEVER... HERE, TOO, THEY REACHED THE LIMITS OF THEIR ENDURANCE AFTER HITTING TWENTY CLUBS.


JUST AFTER EIGHT O'CLOCK. CLAIMING REASONS OF "COSTING TOO MUCH MONEY" AND "GETTING CAR SICK," THEY SWITCHED TO SEARCHING THE DRINKING HOLES ON FOOT.

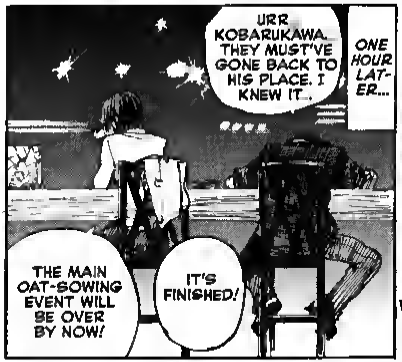

THE PAIR DID CIRCLES IN THE TAXI UNTIL EVENING, SEARCHING ALL THE AFFLUENT-LOOKING RESTAURANTS IN THE ENTIRE TAMA AREA.

HEH!
ITALIAN, HUH? WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT THAT!
YOU! THIS IS ALL *YOUR* FAULT FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO HOLD ON TO YOUR OWN WOMAN'S REINS!!
SAME TO YOU, BITCH!
NO MORE! I'M TOO TIRED...
THEY'RE UNREWARDING, THEY HAVE NO CONVICTIONS, AND THEY HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO TREAT A WOMAN!
I'M FRIGGIN' SICK OF JAPANESE MEN!
D-DID YOU GUESS THAT JUST BY LOOKING AT ME?
PROPER ENGLISH
URK ...!
WELL, NE'S BETTER THAN SOME SINGLES MIXER-ORGANIZING JERK LIKE YOU!
WHAT A JOKE!!
YOU'RE ONE O' THOSE TYPICAL BROADS WHO GOES OVERSEAS AND LEARNS ABOUT NOTHING BUT ***INDIVIDUALISM*** BEFORE COMING HOME!
HUH?!
FUUKI TAVERN
I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR GIRLFRIEND WOULD WANNA SWITCH OVER, TOO. BUT THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE HER!
YOU GO TO EUROPE TO STUDY, YOU COME BACK, AND YOU'RE TOTALLY SHOCKED BY HOW *TRULY* WEAK AND VACILLATING JAPANESE MEN ARE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?!
YOU'RE PROBABLY INTO "LOLITA" TYPES, RIGHT?! GOD, YOU'RE HOPELESS!!
FIRE
YOU'RE ONE O' THOSE WOMEN WHO ALWAYS WRITES HALF-WITTED ANSWERS LIKE "FAVORITE TYPE OF MAN→ INDEPENDENT" ON QUESTIONNAIRES, RIGHT? I KNEW IT!


SOSUKE KIDO LATER RECALLS:
"THE THING WITH MANGA IS, SEE ..WHEN THIS KIND OF EXCHANGE TAKES PLACE, AFTERWARDS THERE'S USUALLY A SCENE WHERE THE TWO PEOPLE FALL FOR EACH OTHER...BUT THAT'S ONE OF ...THOSE TOTAL FABLES YOU'D EXPECT FROM A MANGA. THIS ONE FELT TOTALLY REAL, SERIOUSLY! THE SCARS ARE MY TREASURES!"

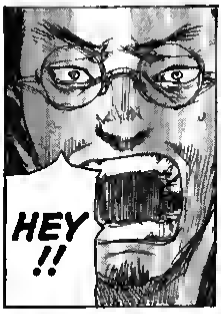
SOSUKE KIDO
YOU'RE SEAT'S OVER THERE
ONE THING I HATE IS "WOMEN LIKE YOU."
MY FAVORITE SPELL IS "ZARAKI."
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. MY FAVORITE DRUMMER IS BRIAN DOWNEY.


ONE HOUR LATER...
URR KOBARUKAWA. THEY MUST'VE GONE BACK TO HIS PLACE. I KNEW IT...
THE MAIN OAT-SOWING EVENT WILL BE OVER BY NOW!
IT'S FINISHED!

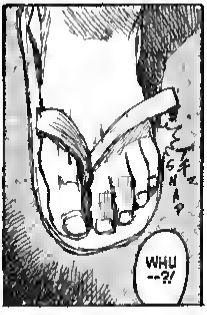
WELL, MY FAVORITE TYPE IS "ITALIAN MEN WHO TREAT ME NICE."
THE TYPE I HATE IS "MEN WHO WEAR LEATHER IN SEPTEMBER"...!
WHO ARE YOU TO CRITICIZE OTHER PEOPLE'S PREFERENCES?!
INDIVIDUALISM

COME HOME SOON MY DARLING!

FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON, AND SINCE HE HASN'T APPEARED MUCH IN THIS EPISODE, OUR MAIN CHARACTER IS POINTLESSLY SENT OUT TO BUY A CUP OF COFFEE.
NOT GOOD I HAVEN'T FINISHED MY REPORT...
. AND THAT POETRY ESSAY'S DUE TOMORROW


HEY !!

THE END THIS HAS BEEN YOUR MAIN CHARACTER IN MINAMI-OSAWA.
THE THONG SHAPPED...
AND THESE ARE BEACH SANDALS!
A BAD OMEN! BETTER GO HOME!


WHU --?!

I WANNA LEAVE YOU ALONE! FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!!
GIVE US A SECOND..
HRMM... ENOUGH ALREADY! LEAVE ME ALONE!

IF YOU COULD MOVE QUICKLY, SIR..WE'VE RENTED THE PLACE OUT FOR OUR SECRET PARTY.
LOOK! HANG IN THERE! THE STATION'S RIGHT OVER THERE! OKAY?!
YOU GOTTA STAND UP, ALL RIGHT?!

AW, ANYWAY, I'M CLOSE ENOUGH
I OUGHTTA WASH MY MOUTH OUT, IT'S SO BAD

SHOO...

MORON! I DON'T WANNA STAY HERE *EITHER!*
WE'LL LEAVE AS SOON AS YOU FEEL BETTER...
LOOK, LET'S JUST GET IN THERE!
IF KOBA SEES US AROUND HERE..
I REMEMBER--
THIS LONG FENCE BELONGS TO A *HOTEL*.
YOU CAME UP WITH THE IDEA, *YOU* GOTTA PAY!!

HOTEL NOZARU
ホテル野
SHE'LL...
WEREN'T YOU IN A CAR...?
H-HOW COME...
...KOBARU-KAWA...

MM? WHO IS IT?
OHH.. IT'S HER..
BUT--
U-RUN
WAIT UP!! LISTEN!! HEY!!
HEH HEH! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET--
--FOR HITTING ON SOMEONE ELSE'S MAN.
THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN. IDIOT! THIS ROMAN--

BRMM BRMM BRMM BRMM
KOBAAAAAA!
WELL...
UMM..
WELL ?!

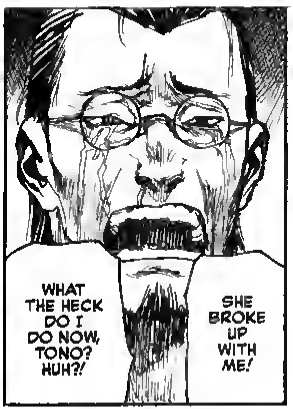
AKAGI LET ME LEAVE MY BIKE AT HER PLACE LAST NIGHT I WENT BACK TO GET IT
WHILE I WAS THERE, THE TWO OF US HAD FIVE OR SIX CANS OF BEER IN HER APARTMENT.
WHAT WERE YOU, HANGIN' AROUND THAT PLACE FOR LAST NIGHT?
YESTER-DAY, BEFORE WE WENT OUT..
OH, I GET IT!
FORGET ABOUT IT.
I SEE... WELL IT'S GOOD NOTHING HAPPENED TO YA!
I SEARCHED ALL THE WAY TO SEISEKI!! MAN, I WAS BEAT!
THEN ON THE WAY HOME, I FELT SO DRUNK, I STOPPED OFF AT THAT SHRINE TO SOBER UP.
LISTEN! THAT WOMAN—
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE DRUNK WITH A WOMAN, RIGHT?

WELL, IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL ANGRY?!
YOU PROBABLY THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF US, AND YOU SNAPPED.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN HARD TO SPOT AKAGI IN THE BACK, THE WAY SHE WAS SITTING.
YOU SAW ME WHEN I GOT IN THE BARON'S CAR, DIDN'T YOU?

IF IT BOTHERED YOU SO MUCH, YOU SHOULD'VE ASKED ME ABOUT IT LATER THAT NIGHT OR THE NEXT DAY, BUT DON'T GO TRYING TO LAY ANOTHER WOMAN THE SAME DAMN DAY! IDIOT!!
YOU WERE TOO FAST !!

DON'T SPEAK TO ME AGAIN FOR A LONNNG TIME!!

LOOK, I DON'T GET IT EITHER, BUT BASICALLY..
...IN THIS WORLD, THE ANGRIEST PERSON WINS.
I MEAN, I DON'T GET HOW THINGS ENDED UP LIKE THIS!


WHAT THE HECK DO I DO NOW, TONO? HUH?!
SHE BROKE UP WITH ME!

I'LL DO IT!
('CAUSE I WANNA SEE AKAGI.)
IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS, WE NEED TO GET THE HELP OF A CONCERNED THIRD PARTY.

THANK YOU, SACHI! YOU ARE MY ONE TRUE SOUL BROTHER!
MY ALLY!
HEY, I DON'T GET THE IMPRESSION IT WAS YOUR FAULT..
LET GO OF MY HAND

...SO I'D LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN THE FACTS OF THE SITUATION TO HER.
IF IT COMES FROM YOU, KOBARUKAWA MIGHT LISTEN-
LOOK. IF I TELL HER...
..SHE'LL JUST THINK I'M SPEAKING ON SOSUKE'S BEHALF.
AND MAYBE THIS IS BENEATH YOU, BUT HE'S NOT LISTENING TO REASON, EITHER.
NO WAY. IT'LL BE A TOTAL WASTE OF TIME.
HUH ?!

HMM.
HOW CAN I PUT THIS...?
...IS IN LOVE WITH *YOU.*
KOSARU-KAWA..
I MEAN, YOU MUST'VE HAD *SOME* CLUE, RIGHT?
TH... UHH..
..WHAT?!

...THE GIRL HAD TO LIE TO HERSELF ABOUT HER OWN FEELINGS.
SINCE YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT ME..
.. SHE'S PROBABLY FELT THAT WAY SINCE LONG, LONG BEFORE YOU EVER MET ME.
TRUTH IS...
--SHE REALLY LOVES KIDO, TOO.
DON'T GET ME WRONG--
...YET SHE COULD NEVER SAY SO. THAT'S THE KINDA GIRL SHE IS.
NO. SHE TRULY LOVES YOU...
...IF SHE COULD "LIE" MAYBE SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME THAT MUCH NOW...?
YEAH, BUT...
...IS THE KIND OF LOVE THAT CAN'T SURVIVE THE SLIGHTEST INTERRUPTION.
BUT THAT "LOVE"...

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
...THEN MAYBE THE BARON AND KIDO ARE ABOUT THE SAME THING FOR HER.

A-HA HA HA! I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR!

I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU TO DECIDE WHICH SIDE TO TAKE.

WHY DON'T YOU GO TALK TO HER?

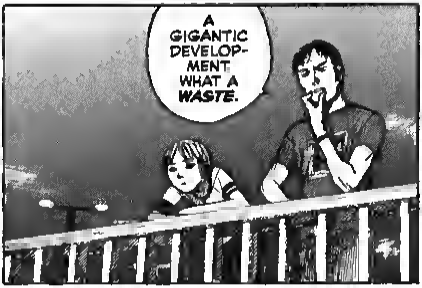
IF SHE DOESN'T GO ON BELIEVING SHE LOVES HIM, THE LOVE DISAPPEARS
BY THE TIME A MISUNDERSTANDING IS SORTED OUT, IT'S TOO LATE.

SIGH
SO IN THE END I'M ALL ALONE...

DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
ERR... UHH...
UMM...
KOSARU-KAWA, THE THING IS...
NO, NOT "WELL, YOU KNOW" ...!
I... TOO
WELL, YOU KNOW.
HUH...? ISN'T SHE ANGRY?
I KNOW ALREADY.
HE WAS LOOKING FOR ME THE WHOLE TIME, RIGHT?
I KNOW.
...ABOUT SO-SUKE—

...THAT NO ONE LIVES AROUND HERE ANYMORE DO THEY?
IN THE EVENING WHEN I LOOK OUT THERE, I REALIZE...

LISTEN..

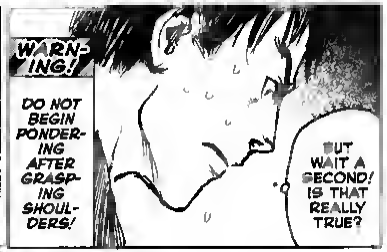

A GIGANTIC DEVELOPMENT. WHAT A WASTE.

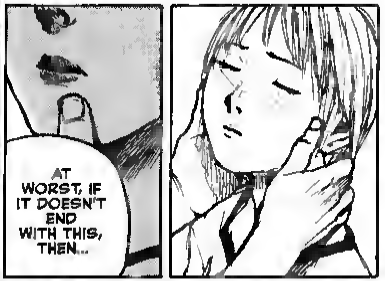
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I WANT SOMEONE WITH ME WHO'LL BE KIND, LIKE ONE OF MY GIRL FRIENDS OR..

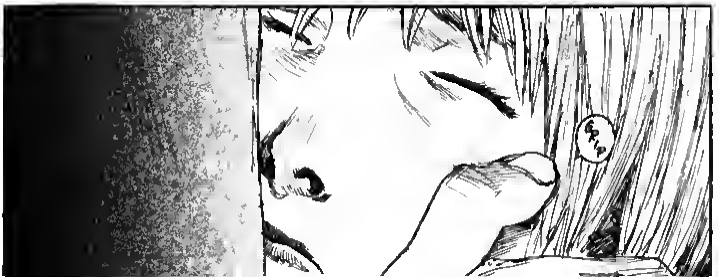
...I FEEL LIKE I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND BEING ALONE AFTER I GET BACK TO MY APARTMENT.
SOMETHING ABOUT TODAY...

..OR ONE OF MY CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.. ONLY THEM.
SHIT!
MOMENTARILY WIPING HIS HANDS
THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN...
...THE HARDEST KOBARUKAWA'S EVER HAD TO STRUGGLE FOR WORDS IN ALL HER TWENTY YEARS

AFTER ALL THIS TIME, ONE OR TWO KISSES NOW WON'T MEAN ANYTHING SHE KNOWS THAT TOO RIGHT?! RIGHT?!
OF COURSE! WE'VE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS FOR TWENTY YEARS

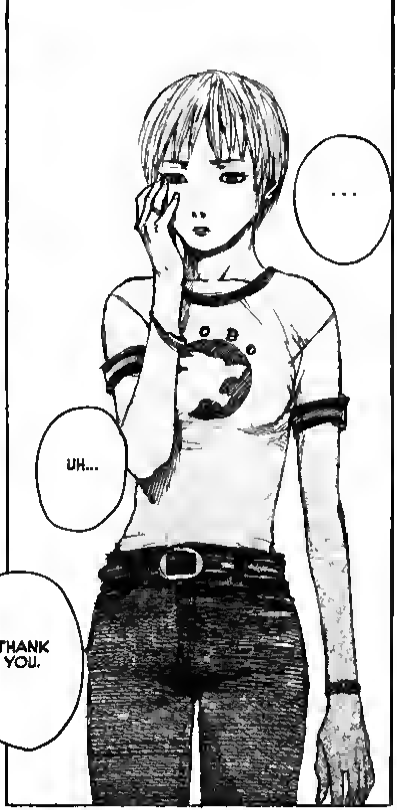






*MEANING NOTHING

BRAZIL
THE FUTURE...
STRETCH
HEY! YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE KIDS.. AND YOU'D SEE A CUT ON MY FACE? HOW YOU'D START CRYING?
AND HOW I'D DO *THIS*, AND YOU'D ALWAYS LAUGH OR GET ANGRY AND THEN FEEL BETTER...?
SORRY. AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
...THAT JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD!


...
UH...
THANK YOU.

...WHAT KINDA REJECTION WAS THAT?

=HFF=
=HFF=
AW, JEEZ...

OH, COME SOON, END OF MY YOUTH!!
OR... MAYBE IT ENDED A WHILE BACK.

TO BE CON-TIN-UED!
DIE, BAS-TARD!
BAM
ACK!!
(DIDN'T DIE)

I FOUND IT SNEAK-ING THROUGH YOUR BAG!
THIS IS JAPAN!!
MIKOTO! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT GUN?!
HOHOHOHO!

THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR SCREWING WITH THE JAPANESE!!
BAR-ONE!! YOU ITALIAN S.O.B.!

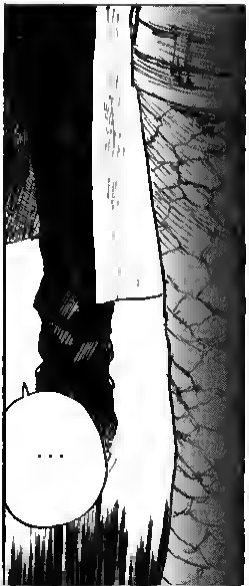
#Manga-Sketchbook@freelighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

#05
NEW DAYS

YOU'RE KIDDING ?!!
DID YOU SAY TAKI'S COMING BACK?!
B-BUT WASN'T HE SUPPOSED TO BE DETAINED BY THE J.O.C.V. FOR TWO YEARS?!
"DETAINED" ...?! HE'S NOT A P.O.W.!
HE'S PROBABLY HERE FOR A VISIT.
HE'LL SEE HIS PARENTS, THEN MAYBE HE'LL GO BACK AGAIN.
HFFF
SO, UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, TONO, THE HONEYMOON IS OVER, HUH?
YOU MAKE ANY PROGRESS?
THAT... SERIOUSLY STINKS...
AKAGI'S ON HER WAY TO THE AIRPORT RIGHT NOW.
NO, IT'S TRUE! IT'S TRUE!

HE WALKS LIKE A GYMNASTICS GIRL...
SOUNDS LIKE ONE, TOO.
CHOOSH
GETTING TO SEE AKAGI'S HAPPY FACE.. IS WHAT MAKES ME MOST...
THIS IS HAPPY NEWS, ISN'T IT?

I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN
...WELL.


...

YOU'D GET *LONELY*... AND YOU'D SHARE THAT WITH YOUR FELLOW VOLUNTEERS.

...FAR, FAR AWAY IN AFRICA...
...SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE WITH A DIFFERENT LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

1

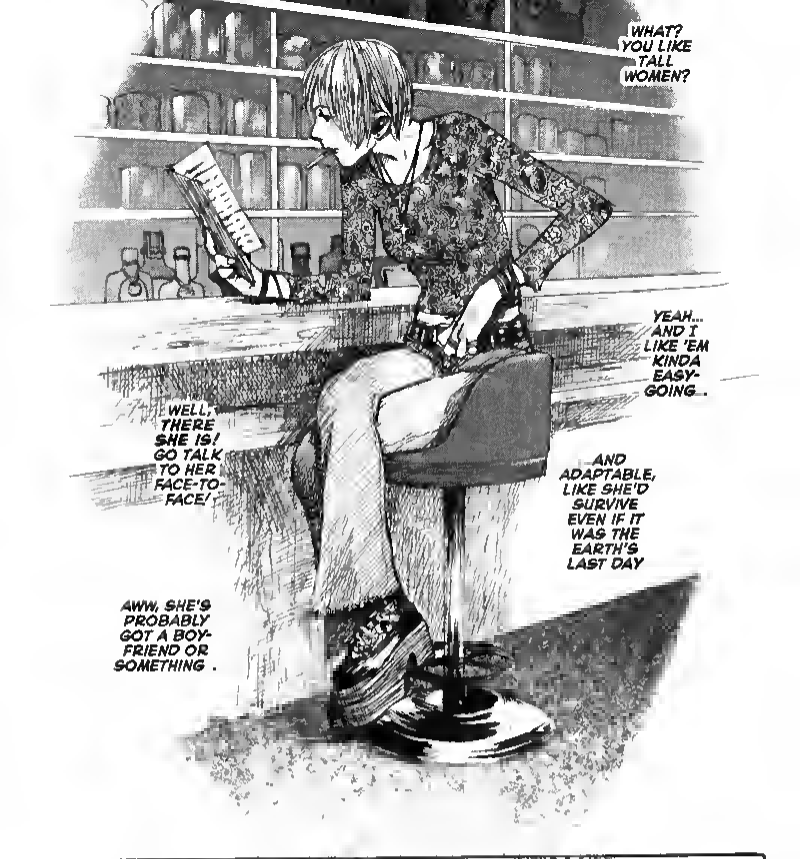
I SAID... I WANT TO HEAR YOUR EXPLANATION. NOW.
...
AKAGI ...?
WARNING!
DO NOT SPY INTO A WOMAN'S APARTMENT THROUGH A WINDOW
AKAGI! TAK!
EEK!
KNK

UMM... I FIGURED YOU'D BE BACK BY NOW, SO...
...I CAME TO SAY "HI" TO (AND DO RECON ON) TAKI.
WHAT?
OH, IT'S YOU.
ARE YOU GOING OUT SOON?
HUH?
YOUR WATCH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HELLO THERE, TAKI!
HUH...? IS HE OUT?

TONO, TONO, TONO..
...HOW ABOUT A HALF DAY'S WORK FOR 10,000 YEN?
WORK?
MY UNCLE'S A REAL ESTATE AGENT...
...AND HE SAID HE'D HELP ME FIND A PLACE CHEAP, SEE?
SO WHEN I MOVE TO THE NEW PLACE...
...I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HELP.
WHU--?!
SO THIS APART-MENT...?
AND WHAT ABOUT TAKI...?!
TH-THE AIR'S SO HEAVY...!
CRUSH-ING!!

WHERE'S YOUR NEW PLACE GONNA BE?
KOCHI! KOCHI!
(CLEANING HER EYES WITH THE HEM OF HER SHIRT)
YOU KNOW! IT'S IN SHIKOKU!
RYOUKO HIROSUE WAS BORN THERE!
HUH? "KOCHI"...?
I NEVER KNEW THAT!!
DOUBLE MEANING
I...

AND THEIR BREAKUP CAME SO SUDDENLY?


WHAT? YOU LIKE TALL WOMEN?
YEAH... AND I LIKE 'EM KINDA EASY-GOING...
AND ADAPTABLE, LIKE SHE'D SURVIVE EVEN IF IT WAS THE EARTH'S LAST DAY
WELL, THERE SHE IS! GO TALK TO HER FACE-TO-FACE!
AWW, SHE'S PROBABLY GOT A BOY-FRIEND OR SOMETHING.

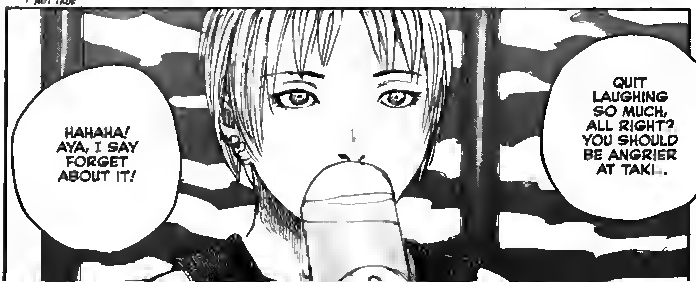
...HAS BEEN CHANGED DUE TO UNFORESEEN CIRCUM-STANCES.
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THE TOAST?
OKAY... UH, THE "MAN WHO HAS SEEN THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD" PARTY..

YAAAAYYY!!
(AKAGI)
SO I WOULD LIKE TO TOAST "THE WOMAN WHO SHALL ROW OUT TO THE SEA OF BONITOS"...!
SOUNDS LIKE AN INDIAN NICK-NAME!
ALL RIGHT! CHEERS!
YAAAY!
(KEI-O)
...
...
(TONO)

AFTER TONIGHT, WE'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN...
NO MORE USING AKAGI AS AN EXCUSE FOR DRINKING.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
I'LL BE BUFFETED BY THE WAVES OF THE PACIFIC AND COME BACK AN E-CUP!

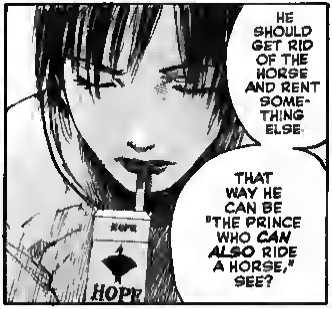
↑ NOT TRUE

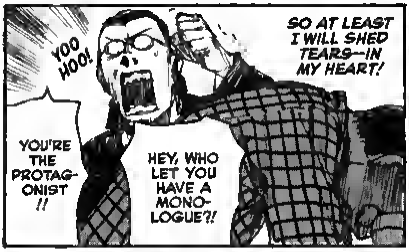

HAHAHA! AYA, I SAY FORGET ABOUT IT!
QUIT LAUGHING SO MUCH, ALL RIGHT? YOU SHOULD BE ANGRIER AT TAKI...

HEY, AKAGI! COULD YOU PLEASE TALK TO THIS PATHETIC DUDE FOR A MINUTE?
LOOK AT THIS FACE! HE'S GOT NO GRIP ON REALITY!
I FEEL AS IF I'VE BEEN UNFAITHFUL TO TONO...
...SO I LEAVE HIS VIRGINITY IN AYA'S HANDS...
SAY WHAT?!
HOKAKUSHI, DESPITE APPEARANCES, I'M A VIRGIN TOO!
ME, TOO, ACTUALLY...
YOU LIARS!
HOW CAN YOU ALL GO ON DRINKING LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO?!
AND TALK ABOUT WHO'S A VIRGIN AND WHO'S NOT?!
AT A TIME WHEN WE MAY NEVER SEE AKAGI AGAIN!!
Y
YTTRIUM!
SAMARIUM!
Sm
Yb
YTTERBIUM!
PERIODIC TABLE QUIZ!
YTTER BEAM !!
"UTTER" WHAT?!
WAHAHAHA
WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT ...?

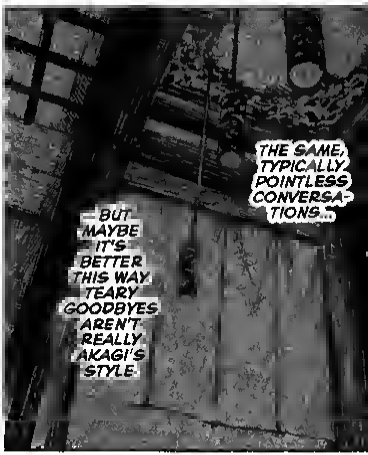
THIS "PRINCE CHARMING ARRIVES ON A HORSE THING"...? THERE'S NO GRACEFUL WAY TO MANAGE A HORSE.
WITH TOTAL DISREGARD FOR SACHI'S CRIES, THE PARTY PROCEEDED EXACTLY THE WAY IT ALWAYS DID...

GOSSIP MODE
IS THAT KAORI MANABE?
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT EASY.
SEE, FUJITA? TREAT A WOMAN WITH CARE, SHE FEELS WORTH-WHILE!
I'D LIKE TO MEET THAT PRINCE...


HE SHOULD GET RID OF THE HORSE AND RENT SOME-THING ELSE.
THAT WAY HE CAN BE "THE PRINCE WHO CAN ALSO RIDE A HORSE," SEE?
HOPE


SO AT LEAST I WILL SHED TEARS--IN MY HEART!
YOO HOO!
YOU'RE THE PROTAG-ONIST!!
HEY, WHO LET YOU HAVE A MONO-LOGUE?!

GYA-AAA! AKA-G!!!!!
MOVING SLOWLY


THE SAME, TYPICALLY POINTLESS CONVERSA-TIONS...
--BUT MAYBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY. TEARY GOODBYES AREN'T REALLY AKAGI'S STYLE.

SPLASH!
(S.M. DROP)
...GOIN' TO THE TOILET.

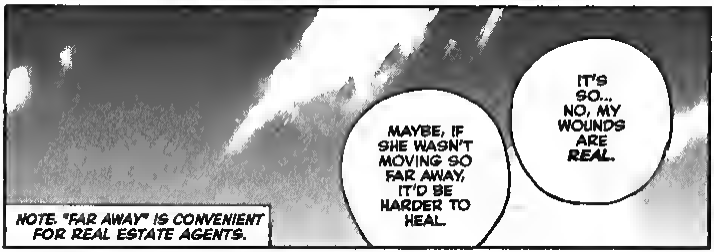
SFFFTCH
SO WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING?
MM. BEGINNING OF MARCH.
CHOP SANDALS
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
WHAT ABOUT TONOP
YOU'RE IN A RUSH.
NO, NO! I'M NOT RUSHING AT ALL!

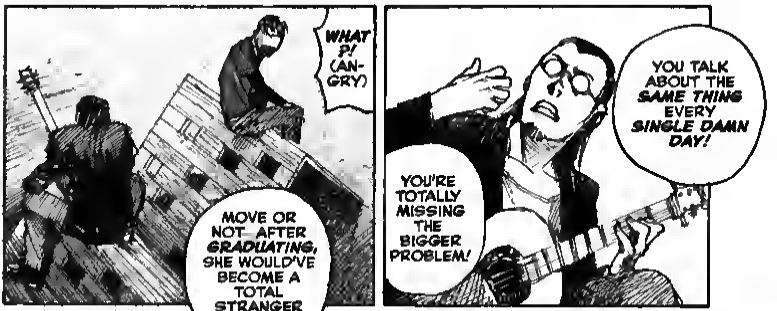
THIS WHOLE PAST YEAR...
...SOMEHOW, IT HASN'T FELT RIGHT.
YOU AND I BOTH...
...MUST BE LIKE "OTHER MEN'S WOMEN" TO TONO.
BUT THE WAY TONO LOOKS AT ME...
...IS SO DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY HE LOOKS AT YOU.
I REALIZED THAT AND THOUGHT AGAIN AND AGAIN...
...ABOUT HOW GOOD IT WOULD BE...
...IF THAT WOMAN WOULD JUST VANISH

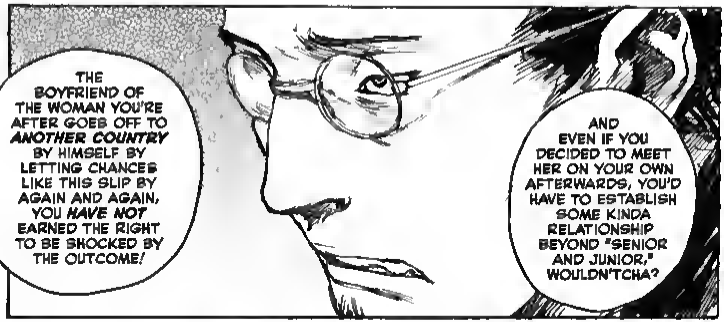
AKAGI.. YOU'RE..
...YOU'RE SUCH AN ADULT COMPARED TO ME!
--YOU CAN'T JUST GO DECIDING EVERYTHING ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT TELLING ME!
BUT--

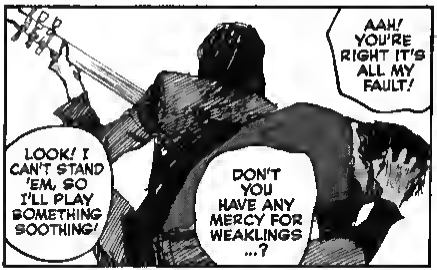
HNFF...
HNFF...
IF YOU LET ME CRY IN YOUR ARMS...
HAHAHA
YA-HOO
YAY! A TURKEY!

WE EVEN HAD A GOING AWAY PARTY*...
...BUT I STILL CAN'T COME TO TERMS WITH IT.
SARK TONE
ALL RIGHT.
I'M DEDICATING THIS SONG TO AKAGI.

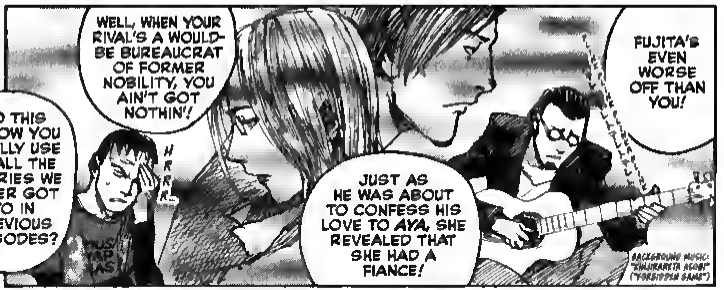

IT'S SO... NO, MY WOUNDS ARE REAL.
MAYBE, IF SHE WASN'T MOVING SO FAR AWAY, IT'D BE HARDER TO HEAL.
NOTE: "FAR AWAY" IS CONVENIENT FOR REAL ESTATE AGENTS.


WHAT?! (ANGRY)
MOVE OR NOT, AFTER GRADUATING, SHE WOULD'VE BECOME A TOTAL STRANGER ANYWAY!
YOU TALK ABOUT THE SAME THING EVERY SINGLE DAMN DAY!
YOU'RE TOTALLY MISSING THE BIGGER PROBLEM!


THE BOYFRIEND OF THE WOMAN YOU'RE AFTER GOES OFF TO *ANOTHER COUNTRY* BY HIMSELF BY LETTING CHANCES LIKE THIS SLIP BY AGAIN AND AGAIN, YOU *HAVE NOT* EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE SHOCKED BY THE OUTCOME!
AND EVEN IF YOU DECIDED TO MEET HER ON YOUR OWN AFTERWARDS, YOU'D HAVE TO ESTABLISH SOME KINDA RELATIONSHIP BEYOND "SENIOR AND JUNIOR," WOULDN'TCHA?


AAH! YOU'RE RIGHT IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY MERCY FOR WEAKLINGS ...?
LOOK! I CAN'T STAND 'EM, SO I'LL PLAY SOMETHING SOOTHING!

♪ WIDE BLUE SEA ...
♪ OUT TO THE ...


SO THIS IS HOW YOU FINALLY USE UP ALL THE STORIES WE NEVER GOT TO IN PREVIOUS EPISODES?
WELL, WHEN YOUR RIVAL'S A WOULD-BE BUREAUCRAT OF FORMER NOBILITY, YOU AIN'T GOT NOTHIN'!
JUST AS HE WAS ABOUT TO CONFESS HIS LOVE TO *AYA*, SHE REVEALED THAT SHE HAD A FIANCE!
FUJITA'S EVEN WORSE OFF THAN YOU!
BACKGROUND MUSIC: "FORGOTTEN SAGE" ("FORGOTTEN SAGE")

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO TURN THIS THING AROUND?!
A A H !!

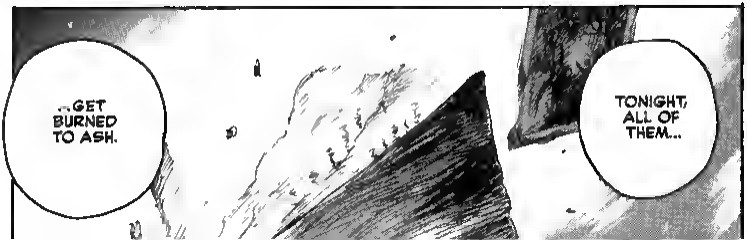
EVENTUALLY WHEN HE COMES BACK TO JAPAN HE'LL FEEL THE SAME ABOUT THAT WOMAN
ISN'T THERE SOME WAY YOU CAN TURN THIS THING AROUND?
WHAT FOR?
...
APPARENTLY... SHE'S PREGNANT.
...I SEE. NO MORE VOLUNTEERING, THEN.
YEAH, OKAY.
POEMS
1997 GRADUATING CLASS MEMORIAL COLLECTION
MIND IF I READ THIS—?

AYA, COULD YOU AT LEAST SUGARCOAT IT A BIT?
AREN'T YOU JAPANESE?
YOU KNOW, YOU CAN FIND THIS TYPE OF GIRL ANYWHERE— ONE WHO SEES HERSELF AS A "TORTURED SOUL." IT FEELS LIKE IT WAS WRITTEN BY SOME HIGH SCHOOL GOTH KID

A FEELING MUCH LIKE UNCOMFORTABLE FRUSTRATION,
WEAKLINGS TRAMPLED OVER THE EDGE
KILLING THEMSELVES FOR PLACES TO BE
THAT WILL SOME DAY BE WORTHLESS.
NO OTHER ENDING YOU DREAM UP CAN COME TRUE—
THE CLOSE OF WINTER ALWAYS GIVES STRENGTH.
"THE THINGS WHICH ARE DONE TO US DESTROY US."
TO REALIZE THIS REVOLTING TRUTH A STAGE IS SET,
WHERE YOU ALL WAIT IN SILENCE
TO GIVE THANKS FROM YOUR HEART.

CLASS 3-C
MAYU AKAGI

THE ME IN UNIVERSITY, WHO'S TIRED OF DEPENDING ON MEN TO FEEL GOOD.
THE ME IN JUNIOR HIGH, WHO THOUGHT ABOUT NOTHING EVERYDAY BUT HOW TO LEECH OFF MY PARENTS
THE ME IN HIGH SCHOOL, WHO GOT DIZZY TRYING TO FIGHT AGAINST MY OWN USELESS SELF-CONSCIOUS-NESS

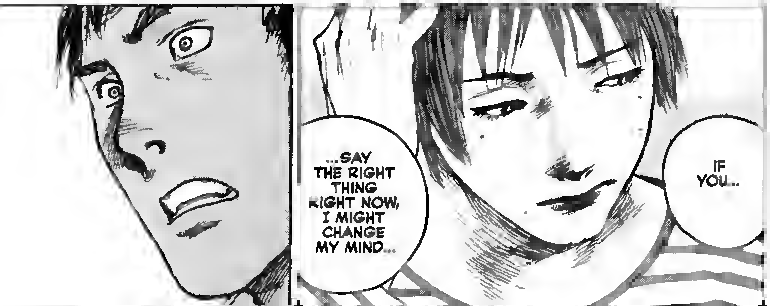


I WONDER WHAT IT'S GONNA BE LIKE LIVING IN A PLACE WHERE *NOBODY* KNOWS WHO I AM?!
I CAN'T HELP BUT LOOK FORWARD TO IT!
MAYU IS THIS FAN THE LAST THING?!
YUP! FINISHED! FINISHED!
YOU FOOL! THE THINGS THAT BIND YOU--
--WILL *FOLLOW YOU*, EVEN IF YOU TRY TO BREAK THEM.
THEN, THE THINGS THAT FOLLOW ME, I'LL KEEP AS CLOSE TO MY HEART AS POSSIBLE!
A-HA HA HA!

OHH, MY BACK.
HEY, SONNY BOY!
SURE'S A FINE THING, YOU HELPIN' OUT MAYU LIKE THIS!
GAH HA HA HA!
OKA--EH?! WHAT ABOUT THE 10,000?
HAVE THIS FER DINNER OR SOMETHIN'!
LATER! THIS HERE'S A LOCAL SPECIAL!
UH.. THANKS.
STEAMED BONITO
TONO, HERE'S ANOTHER 10,000 YEN.
Y-YES, SIR! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
COME 'ROUND! HANG OUT SOMETIMES, Y'HEAR?

COME ON! JUST TAKE IT! YOU DID LOTS FOR ME..
I OWE IT TO YOU.
NO, KEEP IT! YOUR UNCLE ALREADY PAID ME
WHU--?
HUH? OH... OKAY!
GIMME YOUR ADDRESS, AND I'LL SEND YOU A POSTCARD OR SOMETHING
UHH... AKAGI ...?
AH! A CHINESE WOK!
I JUST THREW OUT MY OLD FRYING PAN! GOOD TIMING!
AND THIS--
OH?
I KNOW YOU DON'T NEED MORE STUFF TO MOVE, BUT.
MAYU! I'D BETTER GET GOING!
THANK YOU.

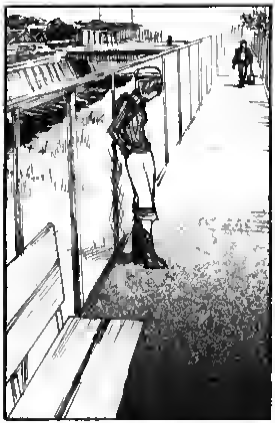
IS THIS . IS THIS THE END?

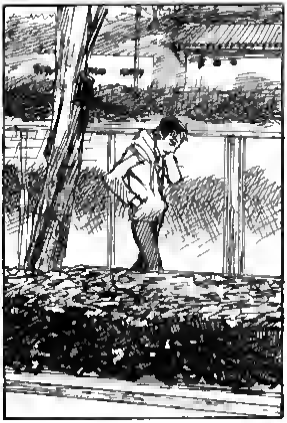

...SAY THE RIGHT THING RIGHT NOW, I MIGHT CHANGE MY MIND...
IF YOU...

I-I LOVE YOU !!
NAW, I'VE ALREADY HEARD THAT, LIKE, 200 TIMES BEFORE.
UHH.. URM... SUH... SUH...
I ADORE YOU--NO! DON'T GO! OH... ORGASM! MMM... MADAGAS-CAR?
THE CHAIN GAME
FWPP
JU--
ACK....
JUST HANG ON A SECOND!

A-HA-HAHA! SORRY! SORRY!
I WAS JUST KIDDING!
TONO, I LOVE YOU!
SEE YA!

WAS IT... "PLEASE MARRY ME"...?
...





GIRL, YOU ARE COLD-HEARTED.
I CALLED YOU TO COME HELP 'CAUSE IT WAS HER LAST DAY.

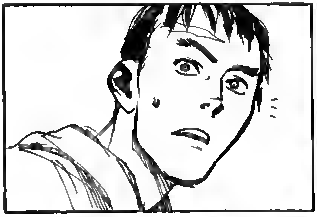
SO DON'T CHEW ME OUT!
OF COURSE, SIR! I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCUSE, SIR!
I FIGURED THAT YOU'D...
..HAVE THINGS YOU WANTED TO SAY TO EACH OTHER WITHOUT ME THERE.
SOSUKE'S PLANNING A "CHEER UP SACHI TONO PARTY" IN HACHIOJI.
YOU COMING?
WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH KIND FRIENDS, HUH?
MM... I GUESS
THE MEN'LL BE COVERING THE BILL BETWEEN 'EM.
WHAT KINDA "CHEER UP PARTY" IS THIS.. ?
YEAH...

KOBARU-KAWA... SORRY...
TO--

KICHANGG
...
HANG IN THERE...

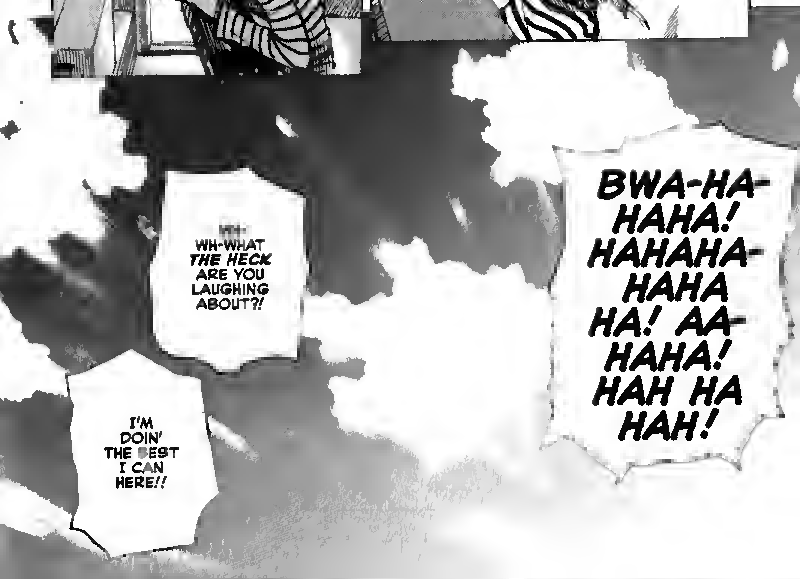
AHH...I WAS JUST KINDA PASSING THROUGH AND THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD USE A LITTLE HELP, YOU KNOW..
TONO! WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

"PASSING THROUGH" ...?
WE'RE IN SHIKOKU ...!
OKAY...
SINCE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, MAYBE I CAN FIND SOMETHING FOR YA!
YES, MA'AM!

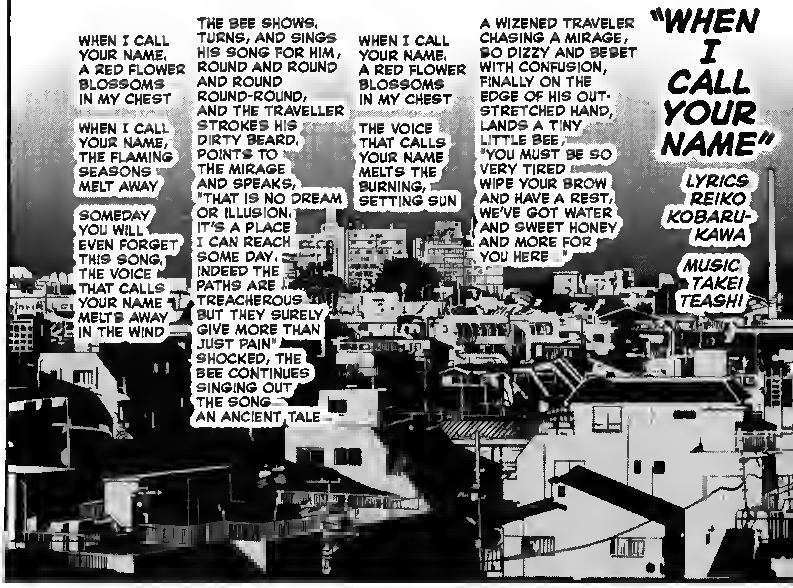


...
HEE HEE HEE HEE HEE..

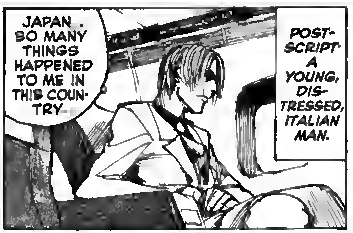
...
HEH


BWA-HA-HAHA! HAHAHA-HAHA HA! AA-HAHA! HAH HA HAH!
WH-WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT?!
I'M DOIN' THE BEST I CAN HERE!!

KIN-DZA-DZA
KIN
DZA
DZA


"WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME"
LYRICS REIKO KOBARU-KAWA
MUSIC TAKEI TEASHI
WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, A RED FLOWER BLOSSOMS IN MY CHEST
WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, THE FLAMING SEASONS MELT AWAY
SOMEDAY YOU WILL EVEN FORGET THIS SONG, THE VOICE THAT CALLS YOUR NAME MELTS AWAY IN THE WIND
THE BEE SHOWS, TURNS, AND SINGS HIS SONG FOR HIM, ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND ROUND-ROUND, AND THE TRAVELLER STROKES HIS DIRTY BEARD, POINTS TO THE MIRAGE AND SPEAKS, "THAT IS NO DREAM OR ILLUSION, IT'S A PLACE I CAN REACH SOME DAY. INDEED THE PATHS ARE TREACHEROUS BUT THEY SURELY GIVE MORE THAN JUST PAIN" SHOCKED, THE BEE CONTINUES SINGING OUT THE SONG AN ANCIENT TALE
WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, A RED FLOWER BLOSSOMS IN MY CHEST
THE VOICE THAT CALLS YOUR NAME MELTS THE BURNING, SETTING SUN
A WIZENED TRAVELER CHASING A MIRAGE, SO DIZZY AND BESET WITH CONFUSION, FINALLY ON THE EDGE OF HIS OUT-STRETCHED HAND, LANDS A TINY LITTLE BEE, "YOU MUST BE SO VERY TIRED WIPE YOUR BROW AND HAVE A REST. WE'VE GOT WATER AND SWEET HONEY AND MORE FOR YOU HERE"

I THINK THE TIME HAS COME.. FOR ME TO TRY AND FIND MY-SELF.
SEN-SE!!
FOR-GIVE ME, MAMA.


JAPAN. SO MANY THINGS HAPPENED TO ME IN THIS COUN-TRY
POST-SCRIPT: A YOUNG, DIS-TRESSED, ITALIAN MAN.

THE END
WHAT DANGER ?!
YWOOSHH
AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER, SORT OF

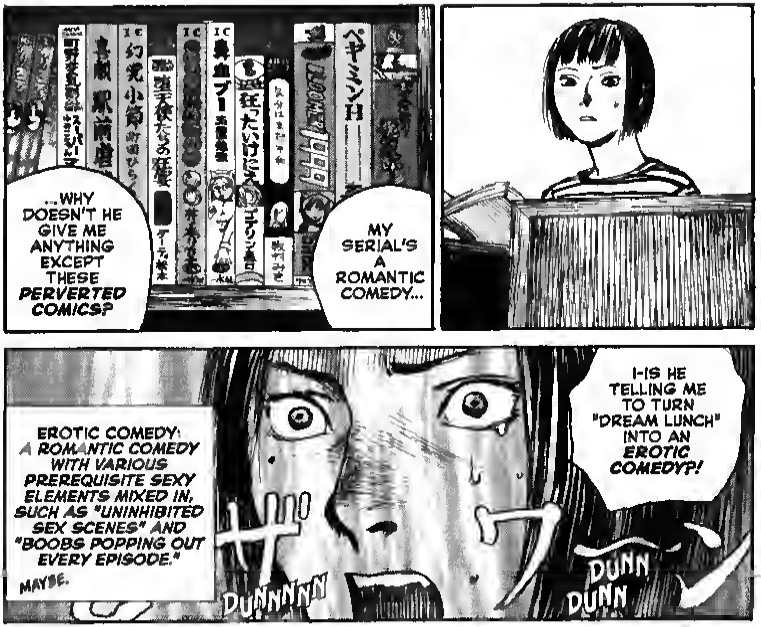
WITH-OUT SOME-ONE BY YOUR SIDE..
.. YOU'RE REAL DANGER-OUS RIGHT?

SENSEI, PLEASE DON'T BE SO SHOCKED!
I THOUGHT.. MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR BEFORE, BUT I REALIZED SOME-THING!
HIEH
GYAAAH
I'M I'M!

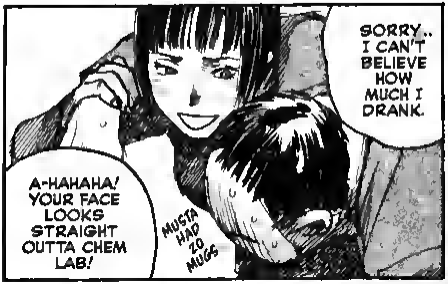
#Manga-Sketchbook@freelighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

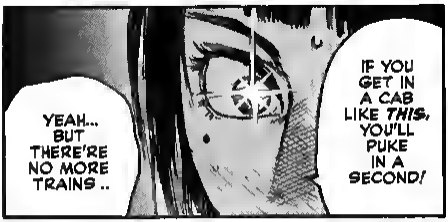
LUNCHEON OF TEARS DIARY (VAGABONO SNOUJO MANGA-KA)

MAGEO INOUE, AGE 28, EDITOR OF HODANSHA PUBLISHING'S GIRLS' MAGAZINE, FRANÇOISE.
TWENTY-NINE... THIRTY. YUP! THIRTY PAGES, ALL HERE!
TOKYO H
...
NICE WORK HERE'S A SOUVENIR
OH... THANK YOU
NATSUMI FUNABASHI, AGE 18, ARTIST--GIRLS MANGA. HER COMIC DREAMING LUNCHEON DOLL IS BEING SERIALIZED IN FRANÇOISE.
NOT AGAIN!!
ANOTHER DIRTY MAGAZINE!!
DUNNNN


...WHY DOESN'T HE GIVE ME ANYTHING EXCEPT THESE PERVERTED COMICS?
MY SERIAL'S A ROMANTIC COMEDY...
EROTIC COMEDY: A ROMANTIC COMEDY WITH VARIOUS PREREQUISITE SEXY ELEMENTS MIXED IN, SUCH AS "UNINHIBITED SEX SCENES" AND "BOOBS POPPING OUT EVERY EPISODE."
MAYBE.
I-IS HE TELLING ME TO TURN "DREAM LUNCH" INTO AN EROTIC COMEDY?!
DUNNNNN
DUNN DUNN
...LIKE "I WANNA DO YOU" OR SOMETHING...
MAYBE THERE'S SOME KIND OF HIDDEN MESSAGE TO THESE GIFTS...
WHAT?! HE'S PUTTING THAT IN THERE?!
OWW! THAT'S GOTTA HURT!
NATSUMI FUNABASHI, AGE 18, READ THE BOOKS SHE RECEIVED FROM COVER TO COVER, WITH THE PROFOUND CURIOSITY ONLY A VIRGIN COULD HAVE.

INOUE, HUH..? I WAS HOPING FOR SOME-ONE MORE ROMANTIC FOR MY FIRST LOVER.
HE TELLS A DIRTY JOKE EVERY TWO MINUTES!
WHATEVER... NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'LL TEST HIM AND SEE WHAT HE'S REALLY THINKING!


SORRY.. I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH I DRANK.
A-HAHAHA! YOUR FACE LOOKS STRAIGHT OUTTA CHEM LAB!
MUSTA HAD TO MUGG


IF YOU GET IN A CAB LIKE THIS, YOU'LL PUKE IN A SECOND!
YEAH... BUT THERE'RE NO MORE TRAINS..

Hôtel Normandy
THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD REST FOR A WHILE. OKAY?
MM...

ANGRY HAIR
A PERSON WHO HASN'T *PHYSICALLY* BEEN WITH SOMEONE OF THE OPPOSITE SEX CAN NEVER CREATE A GENUINE COMIC ABOUT LOVE!
I... *DID* SAY THAT.
YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME...?
THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT!
DON'T MIS-JUDGE ME!
FMMP
YOU THINK A MAN WHO WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A DRUNK ARTIST COULD BE FIT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL EDITOR?!
WARNING!
THIS WORK CONTAINS SCENES OF COARSE LANGUAGE, BIASES, AND OUTRIGHT LIES
...AND THAT WOULD BE THE DOWNFALL OF A VIRGIN MANGA ARTIST WHO WENT TO AN ALL GIRLS' SCHOOL!
THERE IS A WORLD OF THINGS MEN AND WOMEN CAN'T UNDERSTAND ABOUT EACH OTHER WITHOUT SLEEPING TOGETHER FIRST..

--AND I CAN'T JUST STAND AND WATCH WHILE A WOMAN THROWS AWAY HER CHASTITY ON A MAN SHE DOESN'T EVEN LOVE!!
AH... DON'T POINT AT ME LIKE THAT...
HOWEVER! FIRST OF ALL THINGS, I AM A MAN--
THANK GOOD-NESS...
DON'T WORRY! HODANSHA WILL PICK UP THE ■ILL!
:/HEW:
AAH! WAIT!
I'LL BE LEAV-ING!
SLAM!
WILL THEY?
INOUE DIS-APPEARED INTO THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT...
rmandy

THEY'RE SO DIFFERENT FROM MINE. HOW EMBARASSING.
BUT HE WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF GIVING THEM TO ME. I'VE GOTTA TAKE SOMETHING FROM THEM...
NOW GOOD OF ME!
LOOKING AT THIS...
THE WAY THEIR BODIES ARE DRAWN... THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT STYLES FROM ARTIST TO ARTIST!
STRAWBERRY POCKY
MINE'S DIFFERENT, TOO... BUT FEMALE ARTISTS TEND TO DRAW SLENDER, MODEL-TYPE FIGURES.
RICE CAKES— PLUMP AND SOFT
MALE ARTISTS TEND TO PREFER... FLESHIER, NUDE, MOTHERLY TYPES. HUH.
I'VE HAD THE FEELING ALL ALONG THAT LUNCHEON DOLL'S READERS WERE GIRLS...
...BUT NOW I THINK ABOUT IT, TWO OUT OF TEN FRANÇOISE READERS ARE MEN, SO...

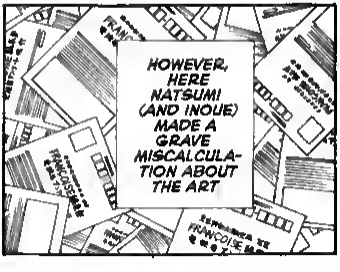
SHAAA
AND ALL THE DUMBEST LIVING JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL BOYS IN THE WORLD WILL BE MINE!! MINE!!
DAMN IT!! I CAN DRAW PILES OF THRUSTING ASSES ..AND BOUNDING TITS, TOO!!
UUSHH あぁ
HER CAREER DRIVE IS ADMIRABLE, BUT SHE HAS NO PRIDE.

EPIPH-ANY!

HMM. . THESE BODIES...
...ARE LOOKING PRETTY GOOD!

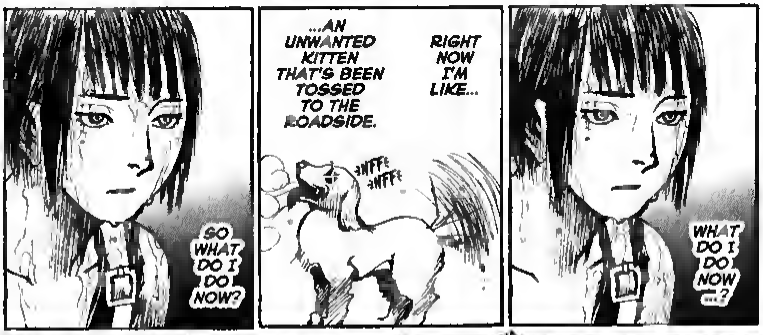
...

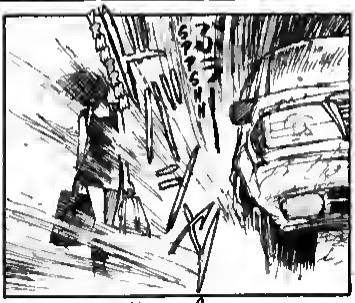
TIME TO PRAC-TICE !!


HOWEVER, HERE NATSUMI (AND INOUE) MADE A GRAVE MISCALCULA-TION ABOUT THE ART

HUH ?! REAL-LY ?!
I THINK THIS COULD BE POPULAR!
IT'S EVEN MAKING ME KINDA HOT.

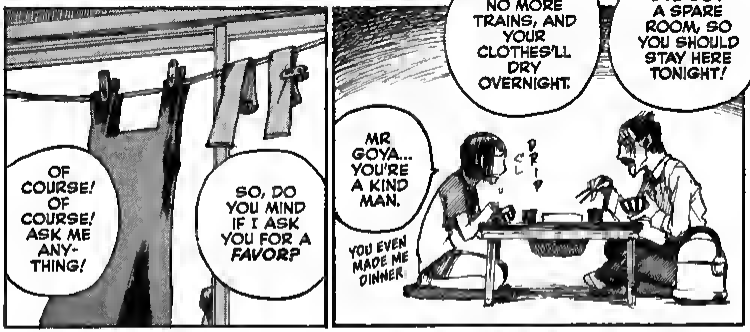
SO, EITHER LUCKILY OR UNLUCKILY, THE MALE READERS OF NATSUMI'S WORK TURNED OUT TO BE EXCLUSIVELY OF THIS VARIETY!
...THOSE WHO DON'T CARE FOR "NICE BODIES," BUT WHOSE LIBIDOS ARE KINDLED BY "SPINSTER BODIES" WITH FLAT CHESTS AND CURVE-LESS TORSOS ARE NOT RARE IN THIS WORLD NO--THERE ARE MANY OF THEM, GREAT NUMBERS OF THEM, IN FACT!
PROBABLY BECAUSE SO MANY HAVE HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATIONS
AS YOU PROBABLY ALL KNOW, OR ARE AT LEAST SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR WITH...
DI-NN-WN-NG
...AND WAS CAN-CELLED.
AND BEFORE SHE COULD GRAB ANY NEW READERS, DREAMING LUNCHEON DOLL, DESERTED BY THE OLD FANS, PLUMMETED IN THE RATINGS AT BREAKNECK SPEED...
YOU NEVER SEE YOUR OWN FAULTS, EVEN AFTER YOU'RE CANCELLED, AND THEN ALL YOU CAN THINK TO DO IS BLAME OTHERS!
OH, YOU'RE TERRIBLE!
KRAK
QUIT WHINING!! GOD, YOU'RE A BRAT!
QUIT LAUGHING AND SAY SOME-THING!!
FWMP
FWMP
WASN'T ACTU-ALLY LAUGH-ING!
WHAT ..?!
I'M SO ASHAMED
BUT, MR. INOUE, YOU YOURSELF PRAISED IT, DIDN'T YOU?!

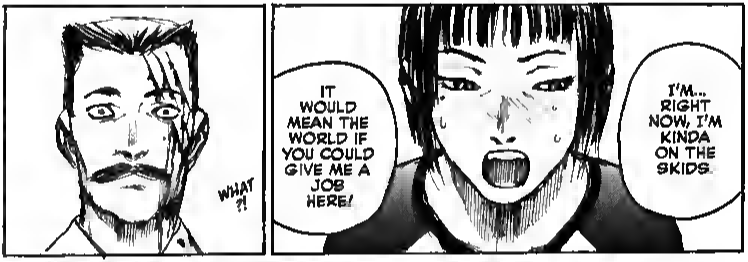




DRIVING ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE ROAD!

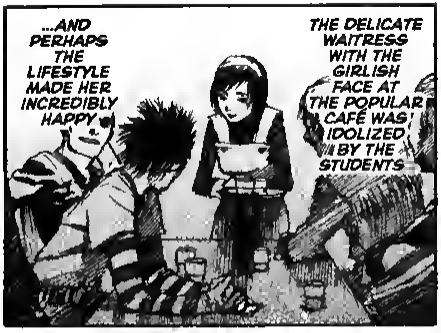
AIEEE!!
MY HOUSE IS RIGHT OVER THERE!!
UMM... BUT I'M A VIRGIN..
YOU HAVE TO WASH THOSE CLOTHES MY HOUSE IS RIGHT OVER THERE
I'VE GOT A BAD HABIT OF BEING PUSHY!
SO SORRY!
CAFÉ DANSEI TO JOSEI (MEN AND WOMEN)
SO YOUR HOUSE.. IS A CAFÉ, TOO, HUH?
YEAH... HAHA HA!
WHEN I CAME BACK FROM AMERICA, I LOOKED FOR WORK.. BUT DIDN'T DO SO WELL.
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR REPAYING YOUR COURTESY WITH BLOOD..
NO, NO! IT'S ONLY A SCRATCH!


OF COURSE! OF COURSE! ASK ME ANY-THING!
SO, DO YOU MIND IF I ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR?
THERE ARE NO MORE TRAINS, AND YOUR CLOTHES'LL DRY OVERNIGHT.
I'VE GOT A SPARE ROOM, SO YOU SHOULD STAY HERE TONIGHT!
MR GOYA... YOU'RE A KIND MAN.
YOU EVEN MADE ME DINNER
P! P! P!



AND SO NATSUMI FUNABASHI BECAME A LIVE-IN WAITRESS AT THE DANSEI TO JOSEI CAFÉ.

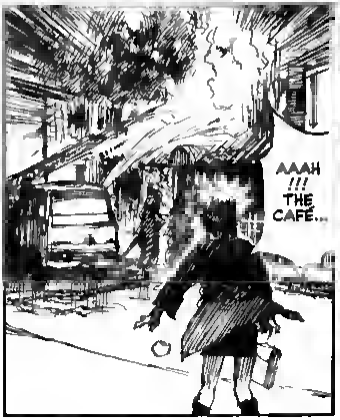
YEP!
IT'S BECOME QUITE THE STUDENT HANGOUT, EH?
DON'T SAY SUCH A THING!!
I'M NOT HERE TO DRINK ANY OF YOUR LOUSY COFFEE!
HEE HEE HEE HEE
WELL PUT...
I CAME TO SEE MISS FUNABASHI!
--SAID MR. GOYA QUITE HAPPILY.
BUT EVERY ONE OF THEM STRETCHES OUT THEIR COFFEE FOR THREE HOURS!
WHAT A SAD BUNCH! WA-HAHAHA!
HUH?
DON'T SAY SUCH A THING!!
S-SOR-RY...
OH, STOP! ME--AN "ANGEL" ...?
YOU ARE AN ANGEL SENT DOWN BY GOD TO MY ONCE-SOULLESS SHOP!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, NAT-SUMI!
YOU BRING IN THESE HUGE CROWDS!
HUH?! NO, NOT ALL...


...AND PERHAPS THE LIFESTYLE MADE HER INCREDIBLY HAPPY.
THE DELICATE WAITRESS WITH THE GIRLISH FACE AT THE POPULAR CAFÉ WAS IDOLIZED BY THE STUDENTS.

UNTIL THE DAY CAME WHEN IT ALL ENDED IN A FLASH!

AND SO OUR HERO!HE, HATSUMI FUNABASHI, FOUND HERSELF LIVING LIFE IN PEACE AND HAVING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE POINT OF THE STORY.

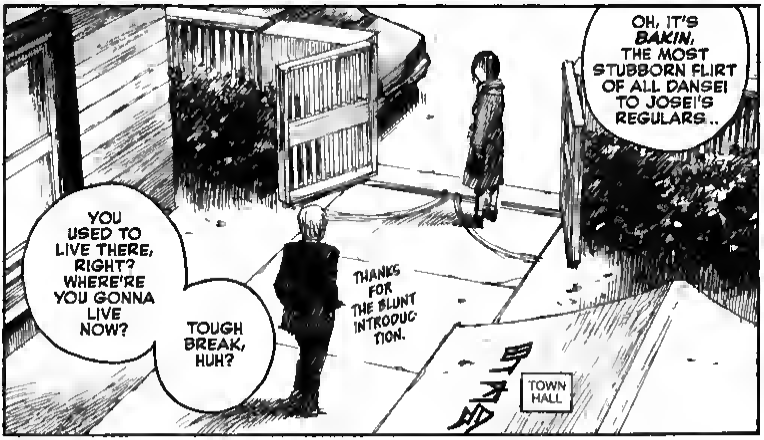
WELL, THAT'S ALL FIHE AND GOOD! ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER, SEASONS CHANGED, AND ALL OF A SUDDEH A HALF-YEAR HAD PASSED.

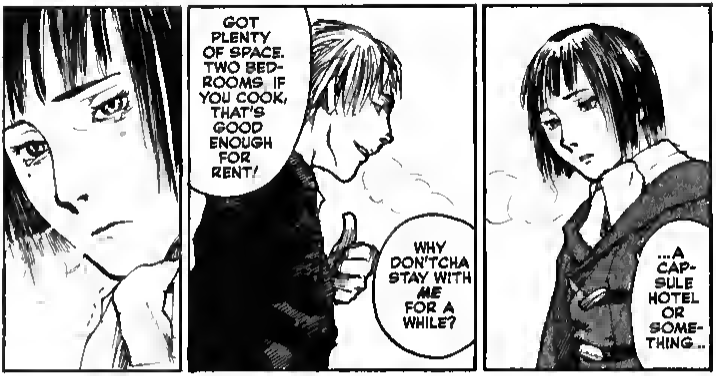


ピーポーピーポー
WEEE
WEEOOO
WEEOOO
...BEFORE MY VERY EYES, I SAW THE DANSEI TO JOSEI TURN ENTIRELY TO ASH. IT TOOK LESS THAN THREE HOURS. MUCH LATER, I LEARNED THAT THE CAUSE HAD BEEN ARSON BY A STUDENT WHO'D HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN OVER HIS EXAMS
THE CAFE'S ON FIRRRE!!
AND SO THE CLAWS OF THE TWISTED DEMON KNOWN BY THE NAME OF "EXAM TIME" HAD SUDDENLY RIPPED OUR HAPPINESS TO SHREDS
-FROM NATSUMI FUNABASHI'S AND SO, A KISS
NOOO!!
HE HAS ONE MORE HOUR TO LIVE...
MR. GOYA'S CONDITION ...?!
DOCTOR!!
N-NATSUMI ...?
YES?
I'M GOING TO...HURT THAT NURSE.
YES, IS IT AN EMERGENCY? APPENDICITIS? NO PROBLEM! THIS BED'LL BE FREE ANY MINUTE NOW!
DON'T GET WORKED UP, MR GOYA!
FORGIVE ME.. NATSUMI..
ALL OF YOUR THINGS.. EVERYTHING.. ALL WENT UP IN FLAMES.

PLEASE SAY IT! ANY-THING! I'M LISTEN-ING!
TH-THANK YOU.
CAN YOU.. COME CLOSER...?
I ..HAVEN'T MUCH TIME LEFT..BUT BEFORE I GO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...
THE TRUTH IS.. THERE'S ONE THING I... NEVER TOLD YOU ..
YES ..?
NA-GOYA. .
"NA" ...?
..NA. .
AH!
WAIT !!
BEEEEE
AND SO GOYA DIED.
LEAVING HIS MYSTERIOUS MESSAGE.

HEY, NATSUMI!


OH, IT'S BAKIN, THE MOST STUBBORN FLIRT OF ALL DANSEI TO JOSEI'S REGULARS..
THANKS FOR THE BLUNT INTRODUCTION.
YOU USED TO LIVE THERE, RIGHT? WHERE'RE YOU GONNA LIVE NOW?
TOUGH BREAK, HUH?
TOWN HALL


GOT PLENTY OF SPACE. TWO BEDROOMS IF YOU COOK, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR RENT!
WHY DON'TCHA STAY WITH ME FOR A WHILE?
...A CAPSULE HOTEL OR SOMETHING...

SHE'D WANTED SOMEONE TO FILL UP THE HOLE IN HER HEART... AND SHE'D LOST ALL HER MONEY IN THE FIRE...AND WAS HUNGRY. AND THE TEARS FLOWED TOO FREELY TO WIPE FROM HER CHEEKS.

HERE'S WHAT I THINK/ YAH!
AAH!
SHASH
I THOUGHT IT WAS BAD OF ME TO NOT PAY HALF THE RENT, SO..
HAHA-HA! HOW STUPID!
—I'M WORKING FROM HOME—
"DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION" TIME!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU MY PARENTS ARE LOADED? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
YEAH, BUT--
HAHA HAHA.
YOU SURE ARE THE HARD-WORKING TYPE, AREN'T YOU, HATSUMI? ♡
ASSININE QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "A GENTLEMAN, AS ONLY THE RICH CAN BE..."
A GENTLEMAN, AS ONLY THE RICH CAN BE...
BUT, SINCE I MOVED IN, I'VE NEVER ONCE FELT THAT HE'S WANTED TO GET FRESH WITH ME.
SOME DUDE SHOT UP SOME SENIORS IN A BUG JACKING! CHECK IT OUT!
A-HA-HA-HA!
WHYP I FIGURE HE'S KIND, HE'S CAREFREE, HE'S A NICE GUY..
SO WHY DO I FEEL LIKE HE'D KILL ME IF I CROSSED HIM...?

?
WELLLL, HAVE I BEEN WAITING FOR THIS! A WHILE BACK I WENT TO GUANGZHOU IN CHINA WITH MY PARENTS, SEE? IT WASN'T TOO EXPENSIVE, MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WAS A BIT WORRIED ABOUT THE SIZE/ WHILE I HUNG OUT IN THE DANSEI TO JOSEI, THOUGH, I WOULD JUST STARE AND STARE AT YOUR BODY/ BUT--WHAT AM I SAYING?/ NANAHA/
OH, NAT-SUMI/
BAM
THEN ONE DAY...
SLAP
LOOK, LOOK/ FORGET ABOUT MAKING DINNER/ LATER, LATER/
URKK!
I ORDERED THIS SPECIAL JUST FOR YOU, AND IT ARRIVED TODAY BY AIR MAIL/
TRY IT ON!!
WHU--?/ BUT I DIDN'T--
THIS IS--

AND SORROWFUL THINGS KEEP HAPPENING IN THE WORLD...
IS THIS THE WORLD WE CREATED?

HUH?!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT ME TO HAVE--

YOU CAN TELL BY THE EMBROI-DERY...
THIS... IS AMAZ-ING...

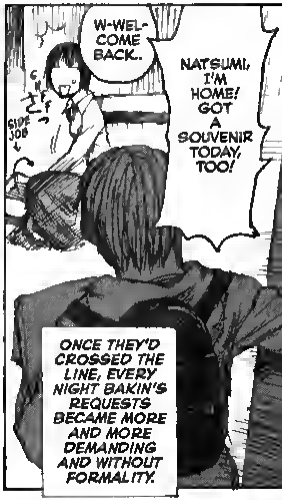
"CAN'T DO" WHAT?!
AAAAH!!

I CAN'T DO IT--
--WITH-OUT A CHINA DRESS!!
DAAAA

N-NATSUMI..
I-I NEVER TOLD YOU THIS BUT... THE TRUTH IS...

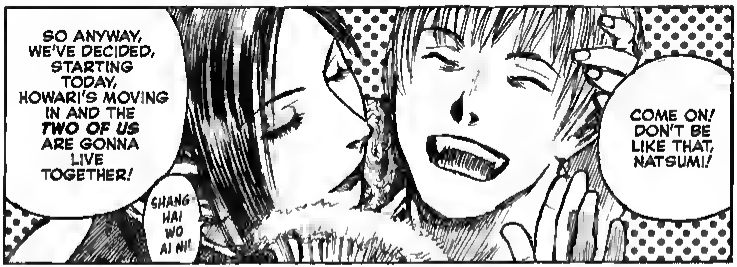
AND THEY BECAME WARM WITH SWEET FANTASY, LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A GIRLS' COMIC. THAT'S HOW THE LOSS OF NATSUMI'S VIRGINITY ACTUALLY FELT.
NOTHING MUCH...
I'M SORRY. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ME NOW?

AND SHE HAD TO LEAVE IT IN.
HE BROUGHT HOME A HAIR ORNAMENT..
...AND SHE HAD TO LEAVE THEM ON.
HE BROUGHT HOME CHINESE SHOES..
BUT THEN I FIGURED, "HE'S BUYING ME ALL THESE CLOTHES, SO WHATEVER."
WHILE THEY WERE MAKING LOVE, NATSUMI ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS A BIT WEIRD...


W-WELCOME BACK..
NATSUMI, I'M HOME! GOT A SOUVENIR TODAY, TOO!
SIDE JOB
ONCE THEY'D CROSSED THE LINE, EVERY NIGHT BAKIN'S REQUESTS BECAME MORE AND MORE DEMANDING AND WITHOUT FORMALITY.

...
BABY ALIVE IN WONDERLAND
THEN ONE DAY..

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU!
I WAS CHECKIN' OUT THIS PRE-MADE DRESS CATALOG AND SAW THIS PRETTY MODEL. SO I CONTACTED THE COMPANY, AND THEY BROUGHT HER OVER.
BAKIN...
AH! COME ON IN!
WHO'S THAT WOMAN?
NI HAO!
TIAN XIAN NIANG NIANG!
FROM CHINA'S HENAN PROVINCE... THE OVAL-FACED PRINCESS... HOWARI (AGE 25)!
FROM CHINA'S HENAN PROVINCE... THE OVAL-FACED PRINCESS... HOWARI (AGE 25)
HO HO HO!
THE BODIES OF YOU JAPANESE-- RAISED IN "EAST YELLOW MAGIC LAND" ON FLOUR DUMPLINGS AND BARLEY UNTIL FIFTY YEARS AGO-- CAN ONLY BE APPRECIATED BY FETISHISTS/♡
"FETISHISTS"...?!
YOU'RE YELLOW, TOO, BITCH!!
MAGIC LAND
YOU DON'T EVEN COMPARE!
NI HAO F-HEROES
JUST LOOK AT 'ER!
LOOK AT HOW PERFECTLY IT FITS HOWARI!

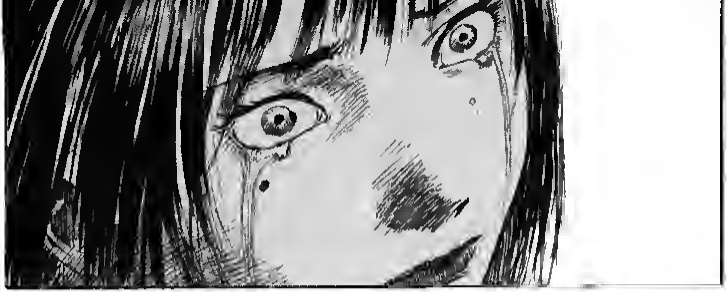

SO ANYWAY, WE'VE DECIDED, STARTING TODAY, HOWARI'S MOVING IN AND THE TWO OF US ARE GONNA LIVE TOGETHER!
SHANG HAI WO AI NI!
COME ON! DON'T BE LIKE THAT, NATSUMI!

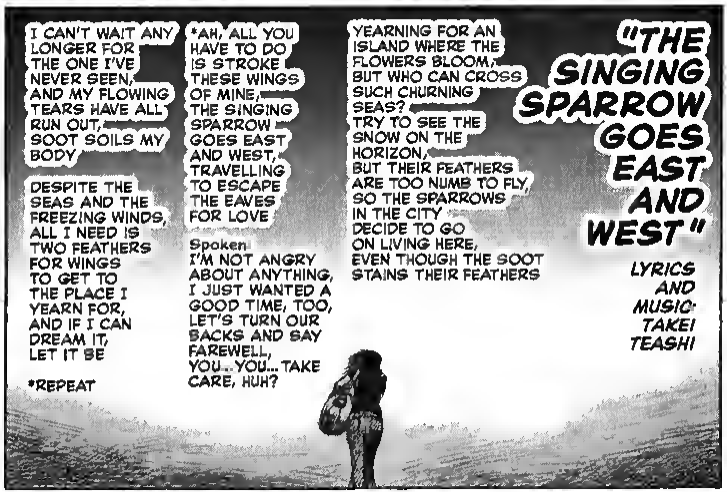
...WASN'T THAT BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME?
B-BUT EVERY NIGHT YOU MADE ME WEAR THOSE CLOTHES...

KOW-LOON FENG SHUI...
HEY, LISTEN! THIS PLACE IS TOO SMALL FOR THREE PEOPLE
I LET YOU STAY HERE FOR SIX MONTHS LIKE I PROMISED, RIGHT?
W-W-WAIT A SECOND!! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU--

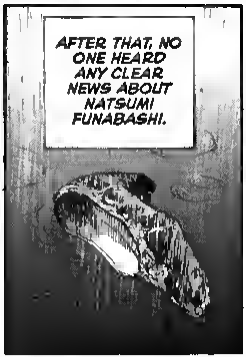
HUH ?

"LOVE"...? GIMME A BREAK HERE!
NO PROBLEM! I ALREADY SET UP ANOTHER PLACE FOR YOU TO STAY!
IT'S IN KOENJI...
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!

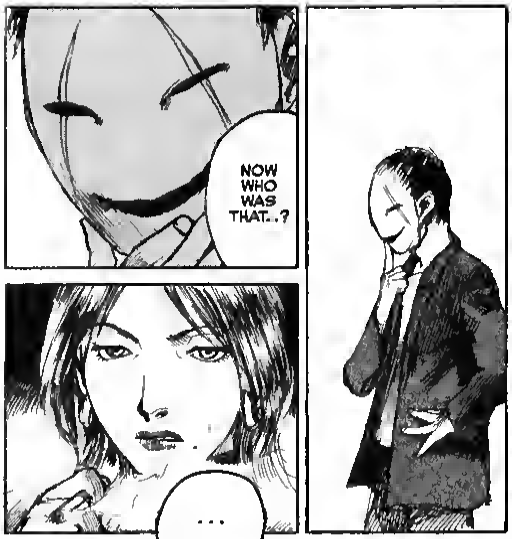



"THE SINGING SPARROW GOES EAST AND WEST"
LYRICS AND MUSIC: TAKEI TEASHI
I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER FOR THE ONE I'VE NEVER SEEN, AND MY FLOWING TEARS HAVE ALL RUN OUT, SOOT SOILS MY BODY
DESPITE THE SEAS AND THE FREEZING WINDS, ALL I NEED IS TWO FEATHERS FOR WINGS TO GET TO THE PLACE I YEARN FOR, AND IF I CAN DREAM IT, LET IT BE
*REPEAT
*AH, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS STROKE THESE WINGS OF MINE, THE SINGING SPARROW GOES EAST AND WEST, TRAVELLING TO ESCAPE THE EAVES FOR LOVE
Spoken:
I'M NOT ANGRY ABOUT ANYTHING, I JUST WANTED A GOOD TIME, TOO, LET'S TURN OUR BACKS AND SAY FAREWELL, YOU...YOU... TAKE CARE, HUH?
YEARNING FOR AN ISLAND WHERE THE FLOWERS BLOOM, BUT WHO CAN CROSS SUCH CHURNING SEAS? TRY TO SEE THE SNOW ON THE HORIZON, BUT THEIR FEATHERS ARE TOO NUMB TO FLY, SO THE SPARROWS IN THE CITY DECIDE TO GO ON LIVING HERE, EVEN THOUGH THE SOOT STAINS THEIR FEATHERS

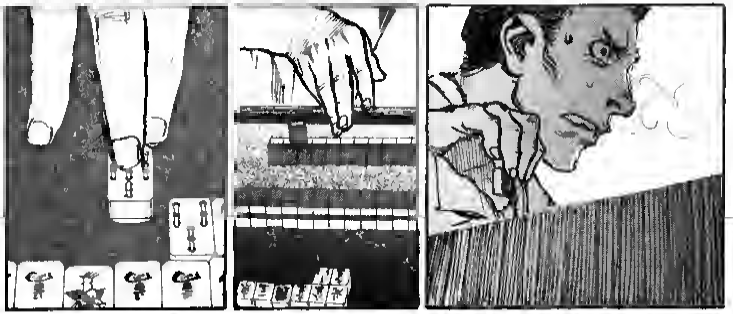
AND SO, TWO YEARS PASSED...



WHAT-EVER HAPPENED TO THAT GIRL?
HM ?
NO GOOD. IT STINKS.
YOU CAN'T LET THESE SAMURAI MANGA GUYS DO GAG COMICS.
MAN, YOU'RE HARD.
...

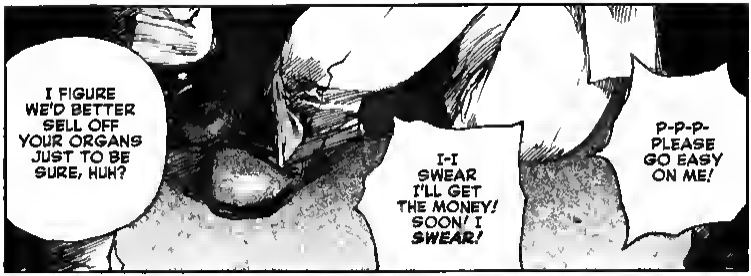

NOW WHO WAS THAT..?
...
FUNABASHI. SHE DID DREAM LUNCH UNTIL THREE YEARS BACK?
YOU WERE HER EDITOR, WEREN'T YOU?

...REACH.
3F



HURRK --!
GAME OVER.

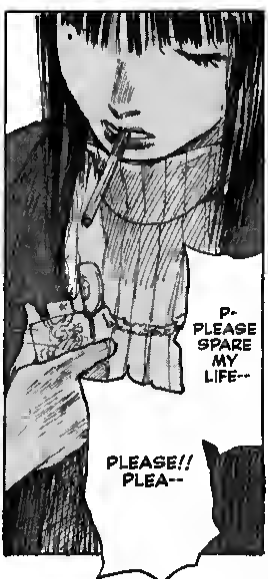
MAH-JONG!
REACH-- IPPATSU!
CHANTA... 8000.


I FIGURE WE'D BETTER SELL OFF YOUR ORGANS JUST TO BE SURE, HUH?
I-I SWEAR I'LL GET THE MONEY! SOON! I SWEAR!
P-P-P-PLEASE GO EASY ON ME!

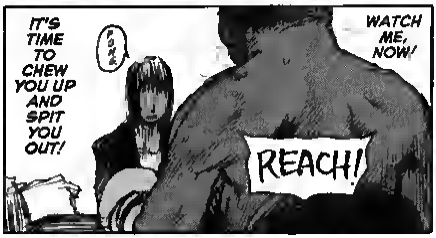
COME ON! MOVE IT!!
URR--

THE GRIM REAPER !!
THE GRIM REAPER'S WATCHING OVER HER SHOULDER!!

BLAMM
HRK !!
WHAT HAPPENED IN THOSE MISSING YEARS IS NOT KNOWN, BUT NATSUMI FUNABASHI BECAME THE FOREMOST MAHJONG PLAYER IN KANTO.


P-PLEASE SPARE MY LIFE--
PLEASE!! PLEA--

HER DEFENSES WERE IMPREGNABLE, AND HER AVERAGE NUMBER OF WINS WAS FRIGHTENING.
AS TIME ROLLED ON, THE MEN WHO SAT AGAINST HER AT THE TABLE STARTED CALLING HER "THE SCARLET REAPER."
SOME OF THEM WERE KILLED.
FTCH
SOME OF THEM WERE TOSSED BACK ONTO THE STREET, SADDLED WITH TREMENDOUS DEBTS.
I HAVE TO SAY NO, MR. MARIKONO.
I DECIDED A LONG TIME AGO TO NEVER LIVE WITH A MAN AGAIN.
NATSUMI, YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT I ASKED YOU?
'BOUT YOU STAYIN' AT MY PLACE A WHILE...?

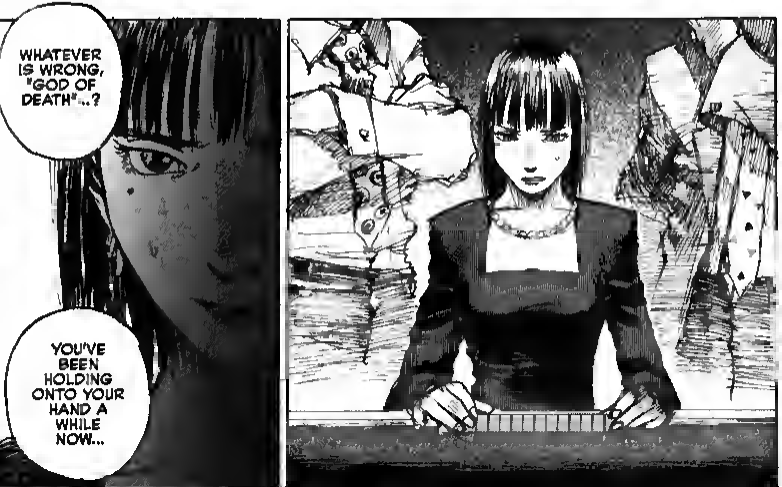


VAGABOND MAHJONG SHARK

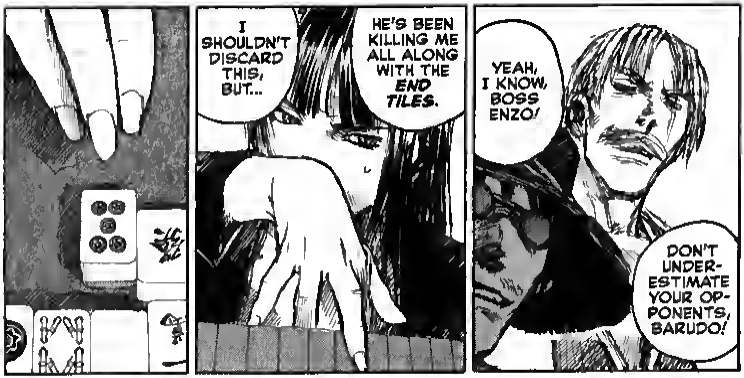
THE SCARLET SLAUGHTERER

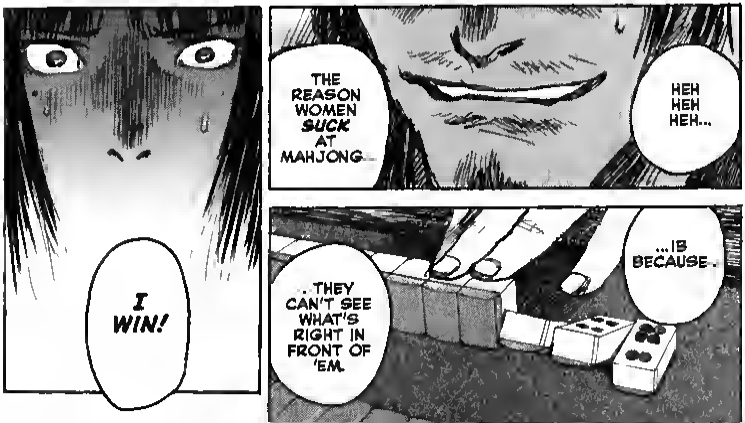
PART ONE: THE WOMAN WAS DEATH

STAFF
IF ONLY YOU WERE STILL ALIVE.. NOW...
MR. GOYA...
WITHOUT ALCOHOL TO LEND HER STRENGTH, THE IRREVOCABLE SAD FIGURE OF HER YOUTH WOULD REVEAL ITSELF.
DIE-EE!!


WHATEVER IS WRONG, "GOD OF DEATH"...?
YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING ONTO YOUR HAND A WHILE NOW...

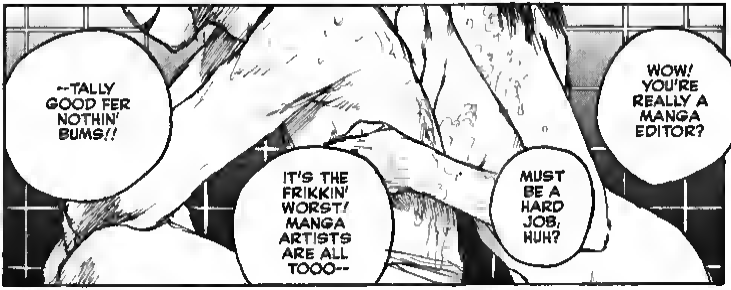
HE'S GOOD ...!


I SHOULDN'T DISCARD THIS, BUT...
HE'S BEEN KILLING ME ALL ALONG WITH THE END TILES.
YEAH, I KNOW, BOSS ENZO!
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE YOUR OP-PONENTS, BARUDO!


I WIN!
THE REASON WOMEN SUCK AT MAHJONG...
HEH HEH HEH...
...IS BECAUSE...
...THEY CAN'T SEE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF 'EM.

RELAX... WE AIN'T GONNA SNUFF YA.
YOU CAN *EARN* THE MONEY BACK.
YOU'LL BE BURDENED WITH DEBT...
BUT YA NEED TO SET THINGS RIGHT DON'T HOLD IT AGAINST ME
HELLO? THIS IS INOUE! WHAT'S YOUR STATUS?
IT'S GONNA TAKE ALL NIGHT?! DON'T BE STUPID!!
IF YOU'RE NOT DONE BY *FOUR*, I'LL COME TAKE IT BY FORCE!
A STRANGER.

WE'VE GOT A NEW GIRL.
I'LL TAKE 'ER!
FINE, I--
--SAY WHAT?! HEY!! COME BACK HERE!!
CHIEF! I'M HEADED TO A BROTHEL!
VERY MAN-LY.
フーン
PHEW
FOUR O'CLOCK...


--TALLY GOOD FER NOTHIN' BUMS!!
IT'S THE FRIKKIN' WORST! MANGA ARTISTS ARE ALL TOOO--
MUST BE A HARD JOB, HUH?
WOW! YOU'RE REALLY A MANGA EDITOR?
SORRY!

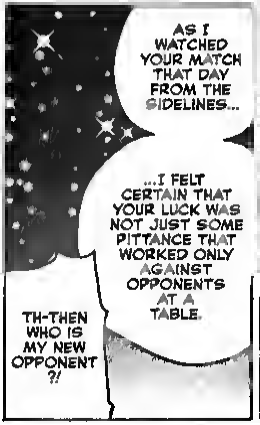
DO I KNOW HER FROM SOME-WHERE ..?
THAT GIRL.

...

HAHHH...
(YOU CAN SEE HER FACE NOW.)
200 MILLION YEN...
CAN'T HELP BUT LAUGH AT IT.
MIGHT PAY IT BACK AFTER TEN YEARS OF WORK.
SHE SIGHS.
WHAT DO I CARE? I LAND WHERE I LAND.
MAYBE I'LL DREAM I WAS AN ANCIENT WARRIOR...
SHE DREAMED THAT SHE WAS BEATEN TO DEATH BY A CRUEL HUSBAND
TINGG
WHY'RE YOU SLACK-ING OFF?!
COME ON! WE'VE GOT CLIENTS WAIT-ING!
YES... RIGHT AWAY...
!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING. MY NAME'S JUNE--

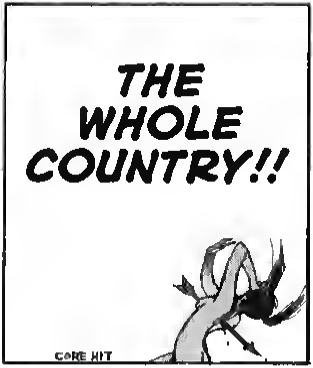
YOU DON'T HAVE TO USE YOUR BREASTS.
HUH? O-OKAY.
...THE ENZO GANG BOSS
SO... IT'S YOU...
THIS IS A BIT UNEX-PECTED.
WHAT IS?
A MAN OF YOUR STATUS, WHO CAN HAVE ANY WOMAN HE WANTS, DOESN'T USUALLY NEED TO COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
A LONG TIME AGO, MY WIFE BECAME EXTREMELY ILL. AFTER THAT..
...HER "WOMANLY FUNCTIONS" WERE RENDERED LIFELESS.
IF I SURROUNDED MYSELF WITH MISTRESSES, I WOULD BE BETRAYING HER IN THE OPEN.
SO I STARTED COMING TO BROTHELS
THAT'S KIND OF A NICE STORY...IN A WAY.

EH? OH! THE MAN WITH THE HAT?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO PLAYED AGAINST BARUDO, RIGHT?
IT'S ABOUT TIME I STOPPED COMING TO PLACES LIKE THIS, EH?
BUT MY WIFE'S BEEN DEAD A YEAR NOW.
AFTER HE LEFT US, HE PLAYED AGAINST ANOTHER GANG'S REP AND LOST.
B-BUT HE WAS SO GOOD...
HE'D INSURED HIMSELF FOR A COLOSSAL AMOUNT, SO ONE OF HIS GANG'S UNDERLINGS JUST SHOT HIM FOR LOSING.
LATER THAT NIGHT.. HE DIED.
WHAT .. ?!
...
BUT, PERHAPS PAYING FOR THE RISKS IN LIFE WITH THE LIVES OF OTHERS MAKES FOR NO TRUE GAME AT ALL.
YOU MAY FIND IT RUTHLESS, BUT SUCH IS THE GANGSTER'S LIFE. A WOMAN CAN SELL HER BODY FOR MONEY AT LEAST, BUT A MAN HAS FEWER CHOICES. HIS ORGANS. HIS LIFE.
THEY SAY EVEN THE BEST WILL MEET HIS MATCH.


AS I WATCHED YOUR MATCH THAT DAY FROM THE SIDELINES...
...I FELT CERTAIN THAT YOUR LUCK WAS NOT JUST SOME PITTANCE THAT WORKED ONLY AGAINST OPPONENTS AT A TABLE.
TH-THEN WHO IS MY NEW OPPONENT ?!

YOU'VE GOT A KEENER GLINT IN YOUR EYES THAN ANY OF MY MEN DO THESE DAYS... THE EYES OF A GAMBLER.
TO TELL THE TRUTH, I CAME HERE TODAY TO SEE YOU!

HOW LONG WAS HE GONNA WATCH HIS BACK?



YES.. YES, YOU'RE RIGHT..!
GO FORTH, NATSUMI!! YOU YOURSELF NOW STAND BEFORE THE ONES WHO BROUGHT YOU INTO THIS WORLD!!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOREVER... FOR A MAN TO COME ALONG AND TELL ME THAT..
WITHOUT SOMEONE TO GUIDE YOU, YOU FALL TO PIECES-- AM I RIGHT?!
FUNA-BASHI! JOIN MY SIDE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU'VE ENDURED SO FAR, BUT..
YES!! TNAT'S THE SPIRIT!!
I'LL DO IT, MR. ENZO!!
WE'LL TAKE JAPAN !!

AUGUST 24TH, 1998: THREE HOURS LATER, NATSUMI FUNABASHI, BROTHEL EMPLOYEE, FORMALLY PLEDGED HER LOYALTY TO THE *ENZO GANG* AS AN ADVISOR.

NATIONWIDE SECRET OPERATIONS
LOCATIONS MAP
ME? MY DREAM IS TO BE WITH YOU ALWAYS, UNTIL THE END OF TIME..AND NEVER BE APART.
HOW WONDERFUL!
WHAT'S YOUR DREAM, FUNABASHI?
NAHAHAHA! WELL, THAT'S NO KIND OF DREAM AT ALL! HM? WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU CRYING...?
A DREAM? WHY, YES..TO BECOME A GREAT FIGURE, FORGING AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN MY BUSINESS AND THE GOVERNMENT, CONTROLLING JAPAN FROM THE SHADOWS! THEN I WOULD STRONGARM THE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS INTO BUILDING A GIGANTIC PARK IN MEMORY OF MY DEPARTED WIFE, IN HOKKAIDO WHERE SHE WAS BORN...
MR. ENZO, DO YOU HAVE A DREAM IN LIFE?

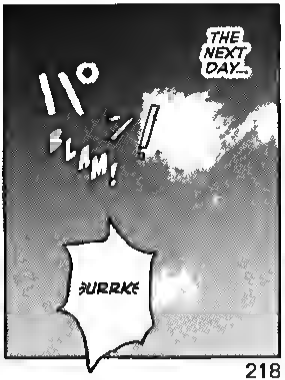
FIVE YEARS LATER...

THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS ARE ALMOST ALL IN PLACE
THE MASS MEDIA.
TRADING COMPANIES. FINANCE COMPANIES.
CONSTRUCTION, PHARMACEUTICALS.
HALF OF THESE WERE ACQUIRED THANKS TO YOUR ADVICE.
WHEN I FIRST MET YOU.
MET ME?
I'VE DONE MANY HORRIBLE THINGS
I'VE KILLED PEOPLE.
THE MERE FACT THAT I'M STILL ALIVE TODAY IS NOTHING SHORT OF MIRACULOUS.
...ONCE FEARED AS THE "TIGERS OF THE EAST."
AND SO TOMORROW, WE SIGN A PACT OF COOPERATION WITH THE YOKOHAMA KUSHIEDA GANG...
HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM THE CURRENT MUTUAL POWER BALANCE...
...WE WILL HOLD THE INITIATIVE AFTER THE DEAL IS SIGNED.

NATSUMI! JAPAN ITSELF IS BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!!
AND ONCE ALL THE PREPARATIONS ARE IN ORDER, WE WILL BEGIN OUR TRIUMPHANT BATTLE AGAINST THE WEST!

WA HAHAHA! HAHAHA HA! HAHA HAHA!
LOVELY
OHH... HOW MARVELOUS, MR. ENZO!
TOO LOVELY...

THEY SHOT THE CHIEF!!
DON'T LET 'EM ESCAPE !!


THE NEXT DAY...
BLAM!
BURRKE

MR. ENZO !!
..KUSHIE.. DA...?
HEH HEH HEH.. IS THIS.. SOME KIND OF JOKE? WAS IT...
BE SURE.. TO ENJOY LIFE. NATSUMI...
H-HOW CAN I.. PUT IT?
PLEASE DON'T SPEAK!!
NO.. NATSUMI..
...I KNOW MY OWN BODY.. THE WOUND IS FATAL..
...I WISH.. I'D MARRIED YOU.. WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE..
MR. ENZO !!
..NOW.. IT'S COME TO THIS.. NATSUMI..

MY LOO-OOVE !!

LET'S NAB THEIR SUB-SIDIARIES ALL AT ONCE BEFORE THE DUST SETTLES!
ENZO'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND'S STILL IN THE JOINT, HUH?

ENZO DIED.
ALL RIGHT! GOOD WORK!
IT'S TRUE.

HMM?
CHIEF!

THERE'S SOMETHING THE ENZO GANG'S SUCCESSOR WANTS TO TELL YOU...
I NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE. YOU NEW?

HAVE A GOOD DAY, SIR!
YEAH

TWO HOURS AFTER RUNNING FROM THE MURDER OF THE KUSNIEDA GANG'S SECOND-IN-COMMAHD, HATSUMI FUNABASHI RE-APPEARED AT A POLICE STATION. THEN HALF A YEAR PASSED. FOR THE CRIMES OF NOMICIDE AND ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION (BUT OH GROUNDS OF CLEMENCY--IT BEING A FIRST OFFENSE), HATSUMI WAS HANDED DOWN A SENTENCE OF TEN YEARS HARD LABOR.

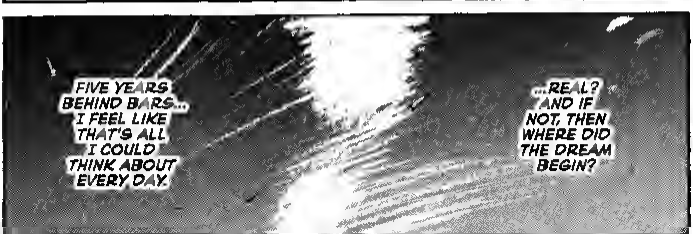
I DON'T MIND.
"PAYING FOR THE RISKS IN LIFE WITH THE LIVES OF OTHERS MAKES FOR NO TRUE GAME AT ALL"... HE SAID THAT.
MADAM! WHY'D YOU DO IT?!
WE COULDA GIVEN A JOB LIKE THIS TO ANY ONE OF OUR YOUNG GUYS...

MADAAAAM!!
I-I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU!
WHAT-EVER!
I'M FINE. YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME. AND ..
...YOU'VE GOT TO SETTLE ON A NEW BOSS A.S.A.P., EVEN SOME-ONE YOUNG JUST DO IT.
YOU a.?
ABOUT SIX MONTHS AFTER GOING TO PRISON, SHE WAS INFORMED THAT WITH THEIR CHIEF GONE, THE ENZO GROUP HAD BEEN ASSIMILATED BY THE KUSHIEDA GANG

YOU THE ONE THEY SAY SHACKED UP WITH A GANG BOSS?
AND YOU ARE...?
IN THE SAME BOAT AS YOU!
NO! MAKI!!
HEH HEH HEH!
THAT'S WHAT SHE GETS FOR SASSIN' ME!
YOU BETTER WATCH YOURSELF T--
TAKE FUNABASHI TO SOLITARY!!
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S--A PRIZE I WON AT PACHINKO!
A MAN'S GOT NO USE FOR IT
I FIGURED MAYBE IT MIGHT SUIT YOU...
CUT TO--

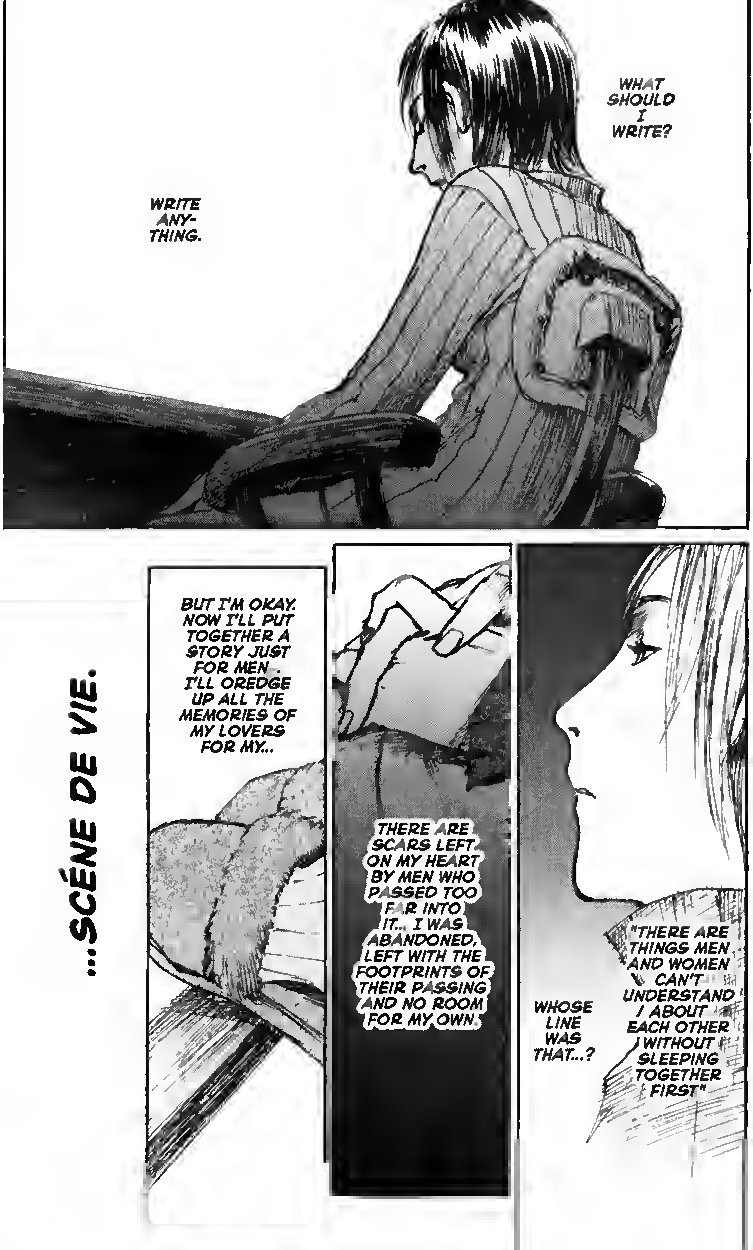
--PAROLE.
GATHOOO
OOOOM

WAS IT ALL...


FIVE YEARS BEHIND BARS... I FEEL LIKE THAT'S ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT EVERY DAY.
...REAL? AND IF NOT, THEN WHERE DID THE DREAM BEGIN?

I'VE GOT TO GIVE IT ALL A SHAPE... BEFORE I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYMORE.
OH! OF COURSE!
...WITH NOTHING BUT THE SHIRT ON MY BACK. WHAT NOW?
HERE I AM..
IT'S NATSUMI FUNABASHI! THE ONE WHO'S BEEN MISSING FOR FOURTEEN YEARS...
NISUI PUBLISHING CORP.
OH! OH, MY GOD!! CH-CHIEF!!
PLEASE, JUST PUT ME TO WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
WE DON'T HAVE CIRCULATIONS LIKE THE BIG COMPANIES. YOU UNDER-STAND?
LET ME SAY SOME-THING.

4000 YEN WILL BE FINE..
...BUT PLEASE LET ME HAVE AN ADVANCE.
SO, WHAT WAS YOUR PAGE RATE AT HODANSHA ...?
HOTEL MELOME
AND THERE'S A LOVE HOTEL OUTSIDE THE WINDOW NOW.
THIS IS WHERE I STARTED FROM... BUT IT'S GOTTEN A BIT SOOTY.
THE SAME PLACE I HAD FOURTEEN YEARS AGO.


WHAT SHOULD I WRITE?
WRITE ANY-THING.
...SCÉNE DE VIE.
BUT I'M OKAY. NOW I'LL PUT TOGETHER A STORY JUST FOR MEN. I'LL DREDGE UP ALL THE MEMORIES OF MY LOVERS FOR MY...
THERE ARE SCARS LEFT ON MY HEART BY MEN WHO PASSED TOO FAR INTO IT... I WAS ABANDONED, LEFT WITH THE FOOTPRINTS OF THEIR PASSING AND NO ROOM FOR MY OWN.
WHOSE LINE WAS THAT...?
"THERE ARE THINGS MEN AND WOMEN CAN'T UNDERSTAND / ABOUT EACH OTHER / WITHOUT / SLEEPING TOGETHER FIRST"

OF TEARS
LUNCHEON
TWO YEARS LATER...

I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT FOR ME, THROUGH CLOUDS AND SHINE...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
TODAY, ON MY THIRTY-FOURTH BIRTHDAY, I CAN THINK OF NO GREATER HONOR THAN TO STAND HERE BEFORE YOU.
第25回 双葉社漫画賞授賞式 記念祝賀会
25TH HODANSHA MANGA AWARDS CEREMONY MEMORIAL EVENT

A MASTERPIECE UNPARALLELED IN HISTORY. THANKS TO ITS OVERWHELMING IMPRESSION OF TIME AND THE BLACK HUMOR UNDERLYING ITS WISDOM. I SENSE THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA IN DRAMATIC COMICS.

REVIEW: SHIRO TANIGUCHI

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I EVER ENCOUNTERED AN ARTIST WITH SUCH UNRESTRAINED MASTERY OVER THE ABILITY TO PAINT THE HUMAN PICTURE.

REVIEW: RYOICHI IKENAMI

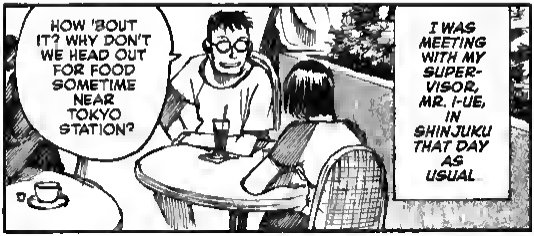
AWARD WINNER "LUNCHEON OF TEARS DIARY"

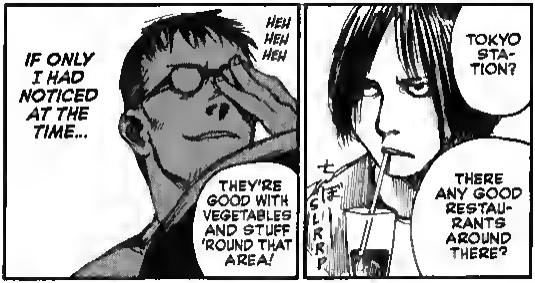
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL. YOU'VE TRULY CHANGED!
LONG TIME, NO SEE, HUH?
..MR INOUE.
I READ LUNCHEON DIARY, YOU KNOW ..?
SO, YOU'VE FINALLY BECOME GOOD ENOUGH TO CREATE SOMETHING OF THAT CALIBER
AND I... I KEPT GIVING YOU THOSE DIRTY COMICS, EVEN THOUGH YOU HAD THAT DUBIOUS LOOK ON YOUR FACE
FOURTEEN YEARS LATER, I FEEL LIKE THOSE DAYS WERE SUBLIME...
CONGRATU-LATIONS!
I WANTED TO TELL YOU, TRULY, FROM MY HEART!

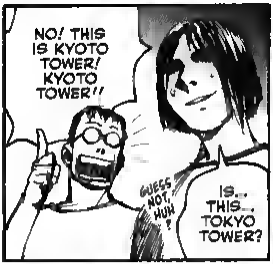
...FAREWELL.
THIS IS THE SIDE OF ME...
...THAT I WANTED TO SHOW YOU FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. THAT'S THE TRUTH.
KPAWING
01
AFTER THAT, HER WORKS LIKE "LUNCHEON WAR" AND "IT'S NO FUN BECOMING A GIRL" BECAME SUCCESSIVE HITS AT AGE FORTY. THEY STARTED CALLING NATSUMI FUNABASHI ONE OF "THE GREAT MASTERS" WHEN SHE DIED OF HEART FAILURE TWENTY YEARS LATER. THEY WERE STILL CALLING HER A GREAT MASTER.
AND THE TALE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE FOURTEEN-YEAR VOID IN WHICH SHE DRIFTED FAR FROM THE WORLD OF COMICS..? NEVER ONCE DID HER OWN LIPS SPEAK OF IT...

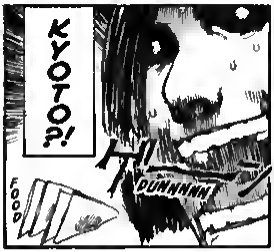
#Manga-Sketchbook@freelighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/

"FORGIVE ME MY MASTER "


HOW 'BOUT IT? WHY DON'T WE HEAD OUT FOR FOOD SOMETIME NEAR TOKYO STATION?
I WAS MEETING WITH MY SUPER-VISOR, MR. I-UE, IN SHINJUKU THAT DAY AS USUAL


IF ONLY I HAD NOTICED AT THE TIME...
HEH HEH HEH
THEY'RE GOOD WITH VEGETABLES AND STUFF 'ROUND THAT AREA!
TOKYO STA-TION?
THERE ANY GOOD RESTAU-RANTS AROUND THERE?
GLRRP



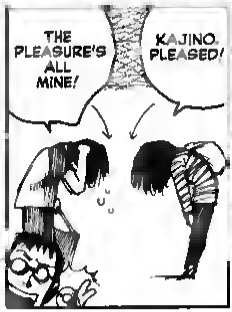


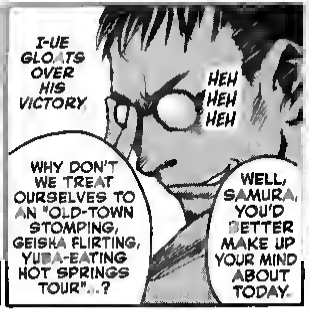
BLOODBATH

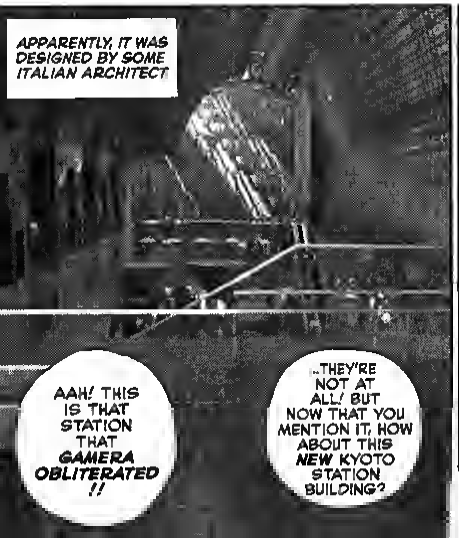
AT MIDORO-GAIKE (KYOTO SUPER BAR-HOPPING JOURNAL)

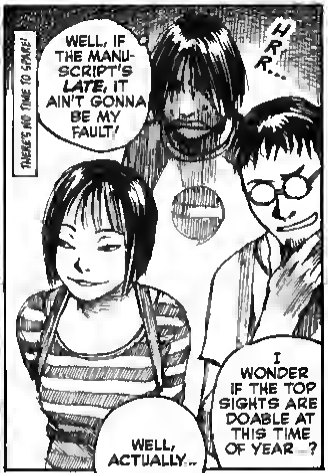
PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE:
TSUYOSHI DAISATO
MASAKI HAMAZOE

AFTER SOME RESEARCH LATER, I DISCOVERED THAT KYOTO STATION WAS ACTUALLY DESIGNED BY MR. HIROSHI HARA (A JAPANESE MAN)! PLEASE DON'T EMBARRASS CERTAIN PEOPLE BY CORRECTING THEM. (TEEHEE) -E-UE

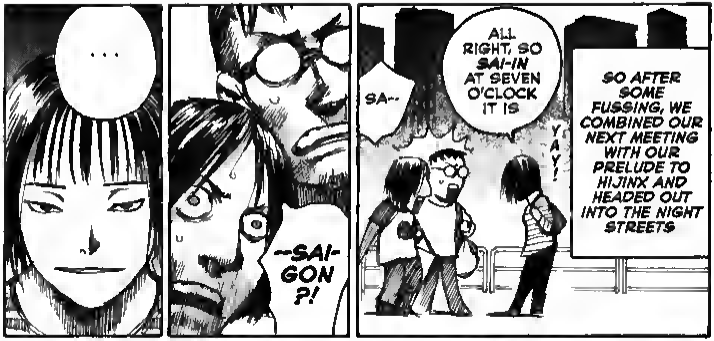



I-UE GLOATS OVER HIS VICTORY
HEH HEH HEH
WELL, SAMURA, YOU'D BETTER MAKE UP YOUR MIND ABOUT TODAY.
WHY DON'T WE TREAT OURSELVES TO AN "OLD-TOWN STOMPING, GEISHA FLIRTING, YUBA-EATING HOT SPRINGS TOUR"...?


APPARENTLY, IT WAS DESIGNED BY SOME ITALIAN ARCHITECT
AAH! THIS IS THAT STATION THAT GAMERA OBLITERATED !!
...THEY'RE NOT AT ALL! BUT NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HOW ABOUT THIS NEW KYOTO STATION BUILDING?

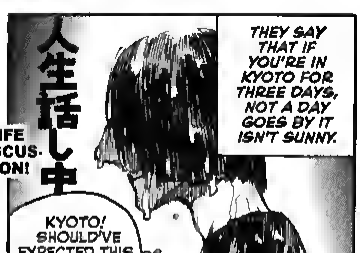

THERE'S NO TIME TO SPARE!
WELL, IF THE MANUSCRIPT'S LATE, IT AIN'T GONNA BE MY FAULT!
HPR...
I WONDER IF THE TOP SIGHTS ARE DOABLE AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...?
WELL, ACTUALLY...

JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM AN ITALIAN/ MARGHERITA IN EVERY DETAIL/
SAY WHAT?
OR IS IT THAT FEELING OF NAPLES?
HA! HA HA
AN ENIGMA/
HOW ABOUT THAT STAGE-LIKE THING?
UMM... WHAT'S THAT PLATFORM UP THERE FOR?
ITS PURPOSE IS UNKNOWN
NAH, WE'RE STAYING RIGHT OVER THERE...
HEH HEH HEH...
HOW 'BOUT IT, SIR?! A MERE 8000 YEN!
NEAR TOGETSUKYO BRIDGE, RIKSHAW BOYS WERE TRYING TO ROPE IN CUSTOMERS.
I GOT FIVE KIDS AT HOME!!
NOW, DON'T SAY THAT! THIS HERE'S A HARD WORLD TO LIVE IN, SIR!!
YA IEE E!!
THEY MUST ALL BE GOING TO SOME KINDA NIGHT SPOT, RIGHT?
MAN, YOU'RE RUDE!
SOME PLACE ONLY THE LOCALS KNOW ABOUT...SHIT, THAT'D BE COOL!
HOWEVER, WE WERE IMPRESSED BY THE BOYS' ZEAL TO WORK, DESPITE THE LIGHTLY FALLING RAIN
THE SUN HAD ALREADY SET, SO WHERE WERE THEY TAKING ALL THESE CUSTOMERS? MOST CURIOUS


...
--SAI-GON?!
SA--
ALL RIGHT, SO SAI-IN AT SEVEN O'CLOCK IT IS
YAY!
SO AFTER SOME FUSSING, WE COMBINED OUR NEXT MEETING WITH OUR PRELUDE TO HIJINX AND HEADED OUT INTO THE NIGHT STREETS

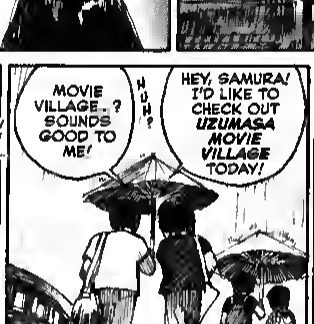
NO, IT'S SAI-IN!
INSUI, PLEASE!
I-UE CAME UP WITH HIS OWN SECRET CODE THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASY TO REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE PLACE. BUT WHEN THE TIME FINALLY CAME HE SERIOUSLY MESSED IT UP.

WELL, WE GOT OUT OF THE CAB, DROWNING IN RAIN. UNDER THE PRETENSE OF SEEKING SHELTER FROM THE DOWNPOUR, WE FORCED OUR WAY INTO THE WICKED WOMAN'S APARTMENT.


人生話し中
LIFE DISCUSSION!
THEY SAY THAT IF YOU'RE IN KYOTO FOR THREE DAYS, NOT A DAY GOES BY IT ISN'T SUNNY.
KYOTO! SHOULD'VE EXPECTED THIS RECEPTION FROM YOU...

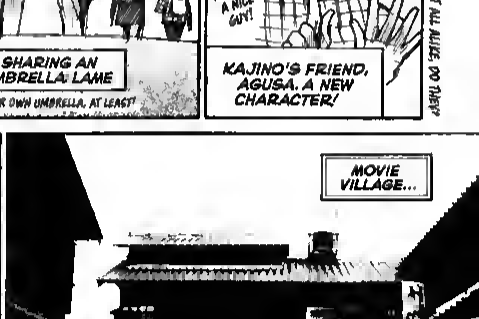
DAY TWO. RAIN...
GHAAA
PECHHHAAA
しゃばだ～
GHAAA

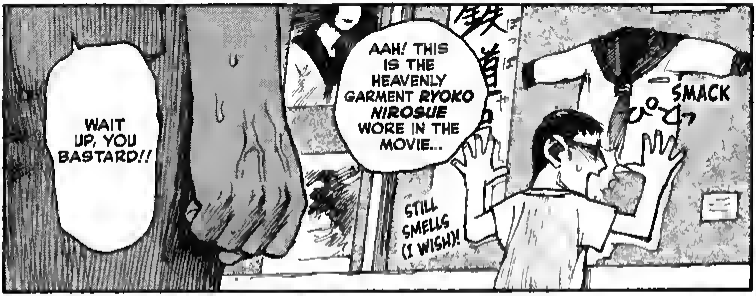
HEH HEH HEH...
IF WE GO TODAY... THEY'VE GOT SOME AWESOME EXHIBITS UP NOW!


MOVIE VILLAGE..? SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!
HUH?
HEY, SAMURA! I'D LIKE TO CHECK OUT UZUMASA MOVIE VILLAGE TODAY!
SHARING AN UMBRELLA: LAME
BUY YOUR OWN UMBRELLA, AT LEAST!

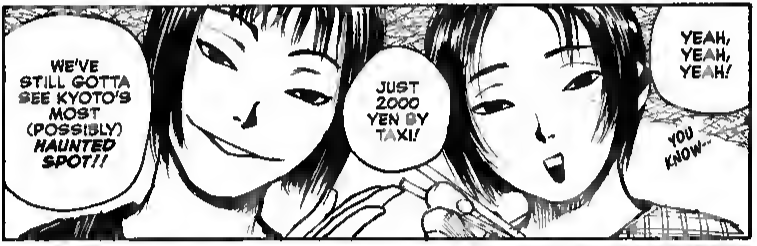
IT'S STILL THE RAINY SEASON-- HERE'S NO AVOIDING IT!
DON'T BLAME IT ON KYOTO!
KYOTO'S ACTUALLY A NICE GUY!
KAJINO'S FRIEND, AGUSA. A NEW CHARACTER!
DON'T LOOK AT ALL ALIKE, DO THEY?

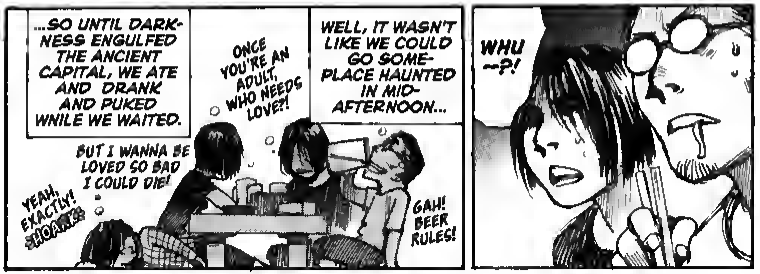
鉄道ぽっぽや
POPPOYA

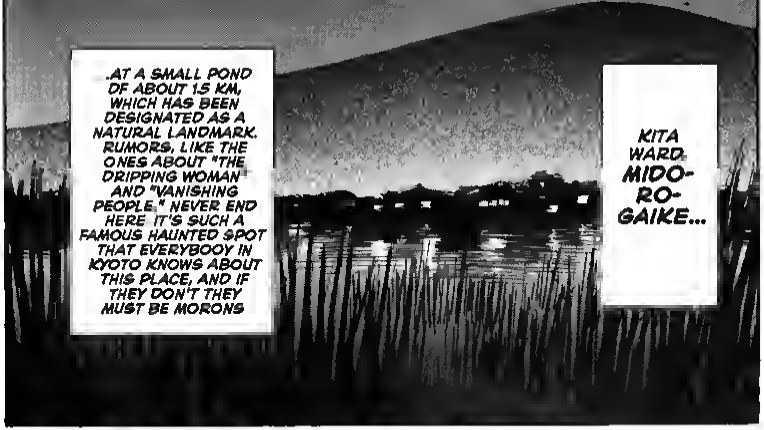

MOVIE VILLAGE...

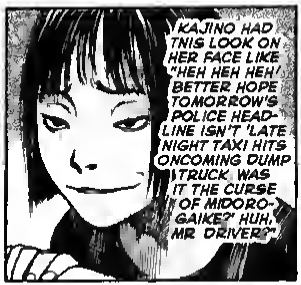

WAIT UP, YOU BASTARD!!
AAH! THIS IS THE HEAVENLY GARMENT RYOKO NIROSUE WORE IN THE MOVIE...
STILL SMELLS (I WISH)!
SMACK

MR. SAMURA, DON'T GET THE IMPRESSION YOU'VE SEEN ALL OF KYOTO, NOW!
ACTUALLY, WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF IT.
NEAR SHIJO BRIDGE, WE HAD HERRING SOBA NOODLES.
BITE-SIZED MEMO: ONCE EVERY TWO MINUTES A MONSTER APPEARS FROM THE LAKE IN MOVIE VILLAGE AND DESTROYS THE TOWN.
FFSHOOOO
あんぎゃー
KRAKOOM
バオム
(HALF TRUE)


WE'VE STILL GOTTA SEE KYOTO'S MOST (POSSIBLY) HAUNTED SPOT!!
JUST 2000 YEN BY TAXI!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!
YOU KNOW...


...SO UNTIL DARKNESS ENGULFED THE ANCIENT CAPITAL, WE ATE AND DRANK AND PUKED WHILE WE WAITED.
WELL, IT WASN'T LIKE WE COULD GO SOMEPLACE HAUNTED IN MID-AFTERNOON...
ONCE YOU'RE AN ADULT, WHO NEEDS LOVE?!
BUT I WANNA BE LOVED SO BAD I COULD DIE!
YEAH, EXACTLY! SUGAR!
GAH! BEER RULES!
WHU --P!


AT A SMALL POND OF ABOUT 1.5 KM, WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A NATURAL LANDMARK. RUMORS, LIKE THE ONES ABOUT "THE DRIPPING WOMAN" AND "VANISHING PEOPLE," NEVER END HERE. IT'S SUCH A FAMOUS HAUNTED SPOT THAT EVERYBODY IN KYOTO KNOWS ABOUT THIS PLACE, AND IF THEY DON'T THEY MUST BE MORONS
KITA WARD. MIDO-RO-GAIKE...

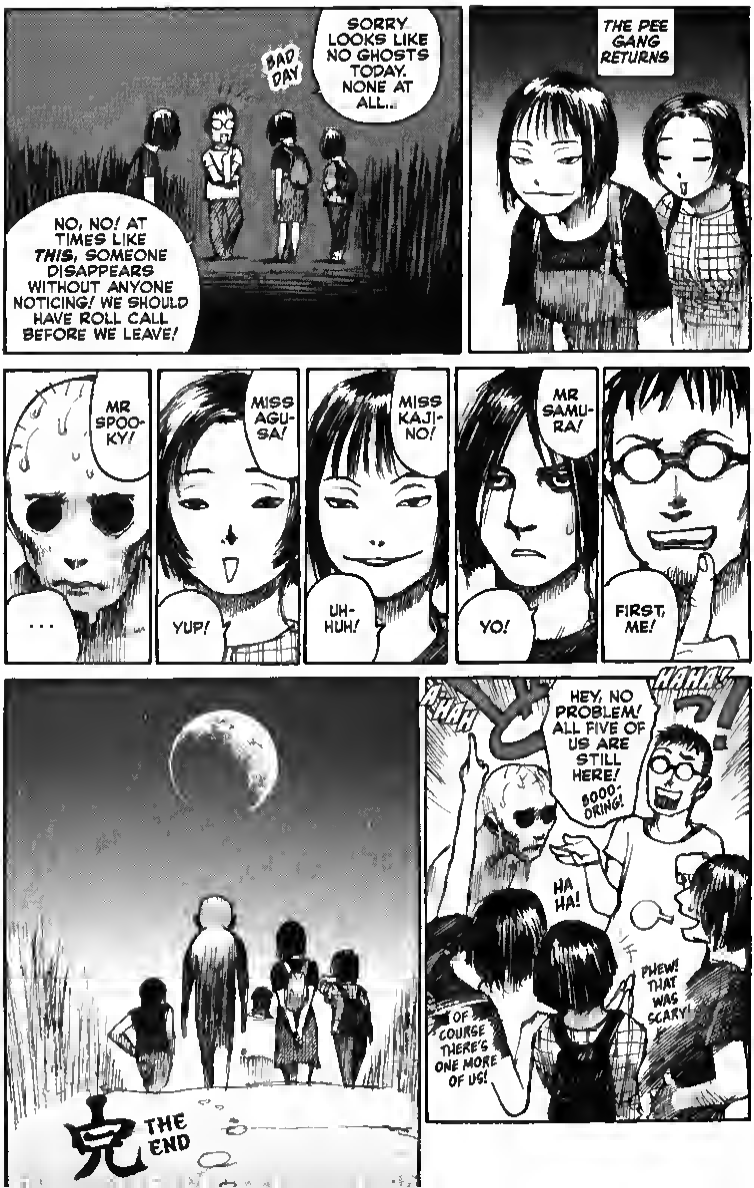

KAJINO HAD THIS LOOK ON HER FACE LIKE "HEH HEH HEH! BETTER HOPE TOMORROW'S POLICE HEADLINE ISN'T 'LATE NIGHT TAXI HITS ONCOMING DUMP TRUCK. WAS IT THE CURSE OF MIDORO-GAIKE?' HUH, MR. DRIVER?"

THERE'S NOTHIN'! NOTHIN'! JUST A BUNCHA WATER OUT THERE!
WHO TOLD YOU THAT?!
HUH?
SO IN THE TAXI ON THE WAY, JUST AS KAJINO'S ABOUT TO TELL THE STORY, THE CABBIE SAYS--
YACK YACK YACK

--TO BE MOSTLY THIS GUY.
I'LL SQUASH YOU, YOU S.O.B.!

WE WERE SURPRISED TO OCCASIONALLY HEAR A "PLOP," OR "SPLASH" ON THE WATER, BUT IT TURNED OUT--
THERE WAS ACTUALLY SOME ROAD WORK GOING ON NEARBY, SO IT WASN'T AT ALL QUIET--BUT IT STILL WASN'T THE KIND OF PLACE YOU'D WANNA BE ALONE IN
EYAAH
SPSH
SPSH

GWAAH!
WAIT!!
AS SOON AS WE STOPPED, SHE DASHED OFF IN SOME RANDOM DIRECTION, AND AGUSA DISAPPEARED AFTER HER
BUT ACTUALLY SHE JUST NEEDED TO TAKE A LEAK.


SORRY. LOOKS LIKE NO GHOSTS TODAY. NONE AT ALL...
BAD DAY
NO, NO! AT TIMES LIKE *THIS*, SOMEONE DISAPPEARS WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING! WE SHOULD HAVE ROLL CALL BEFORE WE LEAVE!
THE PEE GANG RETURNS
MR SPOOKY!
...
MISS AGUSA!
YUP!
MISS KAJINO!
UHHUH!
MR SAMURA!
YO!
FIRST, ME!
THE END
HEY, NO PROBLEM! ALL FIVE OF US ARE STILL HERE!
BOOO-ORING!
HAHAH!
HA HA!
PHEW! THAT WAS SCARY!
OF COURSE THERE'S ONE MORE OF US!

AFTERWORD

I used the jacket image from the Thin Lizzy album *Fighting* as a reference for my cover. Do you think she looks like Phil Lynott? Oh, she doesn't...? Oh, I see. [Editor's note: You really should look up this album cover.]

Thank you very much for purchasing this, the first collection of works by Take, Teashi. I trusted about half of the backgrounds and comedy scenes to my assistants, because those parts were the newest to me. I think there are some innovative parts, but looking at it from a more worldly perspective it seems like just another average achievement.

"Ohikkoshi"
Well, I just kind of thought I might want to try my hand at a romantic comedy. Rereading it now, I have a lot of second thoughts, like "Maybe I should've thought more carefully about where I put Akagi's birth marks," or "I shouldn't have mentioned those current events," but—given time—even those may bring back good memories. I'm already fine with it, either way.

"Luncheon of Tears Diary"
At the time I did this, I was really into "Ye Ye" and "Nouvelle Chansons," so it's imbedded with that kind of vocabulary. The basic concepts were "A Silly Manga Created With Wholehearted Enthusiasm" and "Life." Well, I think those concepts basically came through in the end. [Note: "Ye Ye" is a style of French pop music from the 1960s, and "Nouvelle Chansons" refers to more modern French music.]

"Kyoto Super Barhopping Journal (Bloodbath at Midoroqaike)" Looking at it now, I'm surprised by how much these characters look like their real-life counterparts.

Well, I feel like there's other stuff I want to say, but I'm an hour away from my deadline, so I'll leave it at that.

—Hiroaki Samura

Table of Contents: The Japanese edition of *Ohikkoshi* includes a color, fold-out poster (images seen on the back cover and interior front cover of this English-language edition). The poster is counted as pages one through four, putting the original edition's title page on page five, table of contents page on page six, and first story page on page seven. For the purpose of scholarly study, we have retained the original page numbering throughout this volume.

8.2: If you look at the Japanese writing for Akagi's name in the balloon, and the line Samura's put down the middle, you can see that it indeed forms a mirror image on each side. The little letters next to the big ones tell you how to pronounce her first name (Mayu). Speaking of names, most people in this story will be referring to each other by their last names—this is normal for university students.

15.5: The fictional title in the background is *Nausicaa of the Brothel of the Wind*. In Japanese, only two brush strokes separate the words "Valley of the Wind" from "Adult Entertainment."

18.1: "Spaca drinks" are definitely on the menu at Asa.

18.5: Shinji Wajima is the guitar player for a Japanese metal band called Ninganisu ("Humen Choir")

19.2: "Ice You" is a drunken mispronunciation of "ai suru"—Japanese for "I love you."

20.3: A reference to Nobuhiko Obayashi's first horror film, *House*, released in 1977.

22/23: Female Convict Scorpion was a movie series directed by Shunya Ito, based on a popular "exploitation" gekiga.

26.2: *Wadeka* is a relatively obscure, six-part comics series for kids, created by Tobira Oda.

29.1: "Kurukuru" means "round and round," and "Papa" is "Papa," in the band name Kurukuru Papa.

36.1: The Nozaru is a famous love hotel, and its name means "wild monkey." It's similar to American "pay-by-the-hour" hotels and motels.

39.2: When Kido sings "Hotel by the riverside..." this is a reference to a song by Japanese crooner Yosui Inoue.

76.6: In Japanese, one can either write text left-to-right (as in English) OR top-to-bottom then right-to-left. For several previous pages, Samura was going English-style—maybe to indicate the foreignness of the characters' dialogue. In the gutter next to the last panel on page seventy-six, he indicates that he's switching back to standard manga-style lettering.

89.5: Chiaki is a female punk singer who started out as a television personality in the early 1990s.

105.6: The background music is "Gandhara," an older tune by the Japanese group Godiego, who are known for recording the theme song to the cult Japanese television show *Monkey Magic*. "Gandhara" is a somewhat over-sentimental song.

114.1: Yasutaka Tsutsui's "Worst Contact" short story was included in a 1979 collection which, roughly translated, means "Space Hygiene Expo."

117.2: Brian Downey was the drummer for Thin Lizzy. "Zaraki" is one of the most powerful spells in the Dragon Warriors video-game series, which would be very familiar to any Nintendo-generation Japanese male.

135.5: One can see "Southern All Stars" written very small in this panel's lower right corner. This is a reference to a popular Japanese band who had a song called "Tsunami," which is one of the featured disasters in this panel.

148.1: Bonitos are medium-sized fish in the mackerel family.

150.3: Kaori Manabe is a well-known TV presenter/host.

152.3: In many Japanese restaurants, you must take off your shoes just outside the room you sit in with your friends, and you then put on the store's slippers (also known as "shop sandals") to go to the bathroom or walk to another room.

157.4: The background music is "Kinjirareta Asobi" ("Forbidden Game"), by the band Ali Project.

177.2: Natsumi's books! The books that are legible, from right to left, are: *Pegimin H, Bloomer 1999, I Still Feel Good* by Miki Makimura, *Can't Go Crazy* by Goblin

Moriguchi, *Nose Bleed Boo!*, *Women Teasing Women*, *Med Feast of Fellen Angels*, *Imaginary Song*, *Cruelty at the Station*, *Henmaru Machino Super Mayuko-chen*, and two volumes of *Christie*.

193.4: "Hardworking type" in Japanese is pronounced "kuroushou," like "crow-show," hence this bizarre non-sequitor gag.

197.3: Howari is invoking a Chinese goddess when she says, "Tian-Xian Niang-Niang!" Also, Howari's dialogue, in the Japanese edition, is handwritten in Chinese.

197.4: Howari spouts nonsense and non-sequitors galore in Chinese, like "Meiko Singapore"—which is a reference to "Ah Singapore," a song by Shonen Knife.

198.1: Howari's "Shanghai wo ai ni," is a reference to "Shanghai, I Love You," a song by Shang Sheng Typhoon.

201.1: "Reach" is a mahjong announcement to an opponent, used when a winning player has only one more tile to go out.

201.5: "Mahjong!" If you need only one more tile to win, and your opponent discards that tile, you must call out "Ron!" or "Mahjong!" (In other versions, "Hu-Le!" is used.) "Ippatsu" is another mahjong saying used when going out before discarding your tile.

204.2: Another mahjong term, "pong" means a set of three identical tiles.

235.2: "Yuba" is a sheet of dried soybean casein made by heating soybean milk.

235.6: Gamera obliterated that station in *Gamera III*.

238.7: *Poppoya* (*Railroad Man*, 1999) is a deep film about a signalman at a train station in an isolated part of Japan who re-assesses his life when his job ends and he subsequently encounters a ghost from his past.

240.1: "The Dripping Woman" is an urban legend about a restless ghost. A beautiful young woman in a dripping wet kimono hails a cab and asks to be taken to Midorogaike. The cab driver arrives at their destination, turns around, and the woman has disappeared—and the seat she was sitting in is soaking wet. Apparently, she drowned herself in the pond years earlier.

(art from the original Japanese edition)

HIROAKI SAMURA'S OHIKKOSHI

BONUS PAGES

.....
BABY
ALONE
IN
BABYLON

DRAGON
MAH JONG
RING

Publisher **MIKE RICHARDSON**
Editor **PHILIP SIMON**
Designer **DAVID NESTELLE**
Art Director **LIA RIBACCHI**

Editorial thanks to Riko Frohnmeyer, Michael Gombos, and Ryan Hill

English-language version produced by DARK HORSE COMICS

DHIKKOSHI
© Hiroaki Samura 2006. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 2002 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. Publication rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd. Dark Horse Manga™ is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication are either the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

Published by
Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.

Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 S.E. Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

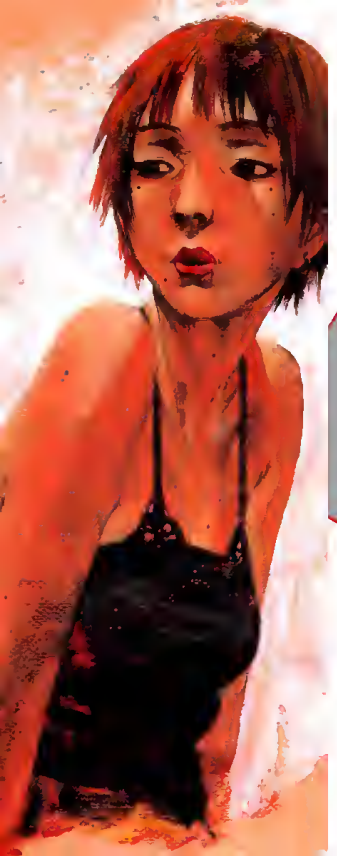
darkhorse.com

To find a local comics shop in your area, call the
Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

First edition: October 2006
ISBN 10: 1-59307-622-3
ISBN 13: 978-1-59307-622-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in Canada

712



竹易てあし漫画全集

AFTERNOON KC296

おひっこし

沙村広明

AFTERNOON KC296

おひっこし

沙村広明

講談社

9784063142969
1929979005245
雑誌 55721-96
ISBN4-06-314296-5
C9979 ¥524E (0)
アフタヌーンKC
講談社
定価 本体524円 (税別)

TAKEITEASY COMICS COMPLETE WORKS

OHIKKOSHI

HIROAKI SAMURA

竹易てあし漫画全集『おひっこし』

#Manga-Sketchbook@freelighway
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org/